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Brickies, booze and brothels

he Brits in Berlin

G2 with European weather

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Has 'the Oddfather's lost his marbles?

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Not just nerds: special Net survey

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'It's delicious. I have no worries about eating beefburgers. There is no cause for concern'

- John Gummer, Agriculture Minister, speaking in May 1990 as he and his four-year-old daughter, Cordelia, sample beefburgers

'There is currently no scientific evidence that BSE can be transmitted to humans or that eating beef causes CJD in humans. That issue is not in question'

- John Major, speaking in December, 1995

'The most likely explanation is that these cases are linked to exposure to BSE before the offal ban in 1989

-Stephen Dorrell, Health Secretary, speaking yesterday

Beef warning sparks panic

Many millions in potential danger

and Sarah Boseley

tighten controls on beef produc-tion, following the Government's announcement that 10 young people are be-lieved to have been infected by a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob dis-

Government experts later said that evidence gained in the past few months from deaths among the victims showed that everyone in the United Kingdom who had eaten beef in the decade before 1989 may be in danger.

The admission that boving spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) may be transmitted to humans is a complete reverment has stood by for a

There were clear signs of crisis management as first the Health Secretary and then the Agriculture Minister

Austin

CRAZY STUFF, DONALD,

John Major was told of the new findings from scientists on the Spongiform Encepha-lopathy Advisory Committee (Seac) on Monday, Downing Street said They prompted an Street said. They prompted an hour-long unscheduled meet-ing of the Cabinet yesterday

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, told MPs that although there remained "no scientific proof" that BSE can be transmitted to man by beef, scientists had concluded that "the most likely explana-tion" for 10 cases involving a new strain of CJD was expo-sure to BSE before the offal

ban in 1989. Douglas Hogg, the Agricul-ture Minister, swiftly followed with a statement detail-ing fresh safeguards for slaughterhouses and mimal feeds to ensure that the risk to humans was "minimised". In the absence of detailed guidelines for people worried that "British beef can be

eaten with confidence" and Beef producers, burger chains and supermarkets in-sisted they needed more de-tails of the findings before they could comment, and stressed their quality con-trols. The Meat and Livestock Commission said there was nothing to show that BSE had opposed to offal and bone.

A junior Scottish minister. the Earl of Lindsay, said the Government had to bear some lame for failing to pay farmers full compensation for slaughtering infected animals in the late 1980s. "We possibly unwittingly allowed the temphave succumbed to," he told



John Niven, a farmer in Gloagburn, Perthshire, cast down by yesterday's government announcement. The Scottish beef trade is worth £500m a year

safer since the controls intro-duced in 1989. These were imposed in response to the ap-pearance of BSE in cattle that had, in the early 80s. con-sumed feed containing the brains of sheep suffering from scrapie - another form of the

However, ministers opted for the formula that the risk in eating beef was extremely Ministers sought to assure small, rather than the public that eating beef was no risk at all. small, rather than that there

Mr Dorrell and Mr Hogg said the risk from beef was now "extremely small". Controls to strip out and destroy offal which might be infected with BSE were begun in 1969 and have been progressively improved. Even tighter controls were brought in yester day in an attempt to reassure

the public that the multi-million-pound British beef indusbry was a safe one.

The acknowledgment of a possible large-scale public nealth problem came during a

press conference with Seac scientists after the Commons statements. Professor John Pattison, head of the Government's committee, said doc-tors were being urged to look out for the disease. "We have

BSE were aged under 42 and had been felled in the past few months.

Of the problem over the complex which suffered from an epidemic of "mad more susceptible."

The main concern is for the cow disease." millions who are beef in the 1980s before the controls were

brought in. Prof Pattison said the incubation period of the new disease was typically five to 15 years. That was why the first cases of the new illn had not shown up until 1994, when six were diagnosed There were four more in 1995. All 10 people identified as asked for intense surveillance. The new illness was known baving a new, human form of so we can measure the scale only in the United Kingdom,

Would you like to be a writer?

Because of the age of those who have died, SEAC will consider over the weekend, at the government's request,

by NICK DAWS

disease, page 4; Lead

THE VICTIMS: Depression, tremors, loss of balance and a dreadful decline

Vicky Rimmer

VICEY RIMMER (right), aged 18, a kennel worker from Connah's Quay, Clwyd, North Wales, has been in a vegetative coma at Deeside Community Hospital for the past three years. She was the first known teenage victim of CJD when she fell ill in 1993.

The once vibrant schoolgirl does not move and bas lost all powers of recognition and speech. Her family has consistently blamed her condition on meat infected with BSE, specifically hamburgers.

She was still at school when she began to feel tremors in her hands and to lose her balance. Her symptoms, in com-

mon with other CJD sufferers, grew progressively After being referred to hospital, she underwent biopsy tests, which were carried out by scientists

from the CJD surveillance unit at Edinburgh. Her mother, Beryl, was eventually taken aside by a



neurologist, who said that he was "terribly sorry" to have to inform her that her daughter had contracted CJD. Shortly afterwards she slipped into a coma.

Every year since then, he family have held a party for Vicky's friends at her hospital bedside on her birthday. "I have always believed

that beefburgers cause CJD in Vicky, and I hold the Government responsible for the way in which they have tried to deceive the public," Mrs Rimmer said yesterday.

Peter Hall

PETER HALL (right), a vegetarian, of Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, was after suffering from CJD for two years. His parents claim he contracted the disease before giving up meat. An environmental stud-ies student at Sunderland University, he was a keen musician with a heavy metal group but first showed signs of depress

around Christmas 1994. His hands trembled, he lost his footing coming down stairs and swayed unsteadily when he walked. He soon appeared to lose all co-ordination and much of his short-term memory.

Within five months of the first symptoms, he was confined to a wheelchair. Transferred to hospitals in Newcastle and then a local are home, he continued to deteriorate. In the final stages, thin and suffering from dementia, he contracted a series of chest infections.

Throughout his illness.

the doctors had dismissed auggestions that he was suffering from CJD. The results of his post-

mortem, proving that Peter died of CJD, only came through late on Tuesday night, on the eve of the Gov

Derek Hall, his father, said: "Hopefully public opinion will force the Government to do something to stop infected meat getting into the food chain. We believe infected beef-burgers killed our son and something has to be done."



ANN RICHARDSON (right), a health care one, from Huyton, Mersey side, was 41 when she died in January this year, two years after being diagnose as suffering from

Over those two years she gradually lost co-ordina-tion, and she became bedridden. Her husband, Ronny, always believed her condition had been contracted through eating BSE nfected meat.

The final proof that she had been suffering from CJD came only yesterday in a letter from the medical urveillance unit at Edinburgh.

The note confirmed that in her case there was no genetic history of similar

degenerative diseases.
"The two years of hell we both went through was made worse because the Government did not show us the full picture," Mr Richardson said yesterday. "All along the Govern-



ment denied a link between beef and the disease when way she could have con-tracted it."

"My wife died from CJD and medical evidence with it, so where did she get it from? Why weren't we told there might be a link?
"If the Government had

been up front, we would have stopped eating beef. They kept it under wraps to protect the beef industry."



Profiles by Owen Bowcott

and Alan Watkins

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required. The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily. Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelances. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But, as Mr. E. H.

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Inside

Average phone bills should fall from 250 to £30 a quarter by the end of the . century under proposed new price controls

World News The US Congress seems likely to crack down on Louis Farrakhan, the fiery cleric who leads the Nation of Islam

Mooreover What we are seeing

is a re-ordering of how most people choose to live their lives in a system that has not understood

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defender, looks set to return

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years after playing

game, Mark Wright,

his last England

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Sketch

Nothing rare in steak debate



Simon Hoggart

HE Government has learned some humility over Mad Cow Diseas There was a time when ministers would have wanted to greet the latest BSE scare by opening the dispatch box and pulling out stacks of burgers to force down the throats of Yesterday Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was calm, measured and cautious. We must not over-react." he

said, "just as we must not Ordering steak in a restaurant, Mr Dorrell would say that he did not want it overdone. just as he did not want it underdone. The waiter would shrug at the chef and order

"burned to a crisp." Harriet Harman, by contrast, wanted it dripping with blood. Hers was a tricky task: she did not want to start an anti-beef scare. On the other hand, she did want to start one. Or at least an anti-gov-

ernment scare.
"There could well be a link
between BSE and CJD," she
said, her voice rising. "Today
in the House, the minister has,
I am sure inadvertently, given

out more false reassurance.
"The Chief Medical Officer beef. Would be feed it to his grandchildren? If we don't have full information and full exposure, the public's reac-

By this time Tories were making angry noises, like a herd of cows on Special Brew. The mooing got louder as Ms Harman continued. "Disgraceful!" one of them shouted. "I appreciate this is a difficult and dangerous mat-ter," she went on. "Then siddown!" they bellowed. Declar-

ing that Mr Dorrell had lost the confidence of the public. she did exactly that. Neil Hamilton (C. Tatton) tried to explain how very un likely it is that any of us will become ill from eating beef.

Daft hypotheses

deconstructed

Review

Robert Yates

Kodern Problems In Science Bloomsbury Theatre

"HE problems are both the

name and the business of the act, a trio of impro-

visers from Chicago who deal in unlikely hypotheses. The "Shroud of Turin may be used to predict baseball scores".

say; or "John, Paul, George and Ringo are the fundamen-

tal units of the genetic code. According to the conceit

which governs the evening, the three cast themselves as professors. We, the audience

task to suggest an academic discipline for each of the

One suggestion, it seems was not quite daft enough.

bonour of Science Week -

might pride themselves on

never resisting a challenge,

but they turned mute at one

"How is it possible to talk nonsense for two hours and

get paid?" They obviously took it as criticism, when

was some tips for success.

in honour of the scientific

Perhaps they judge "non-

sense" a little harshly. Maybe

method, they are just applying a little counter-intuition. The

audience suggestion.

The trio — a hit at Edin-burgh the last two years, and appearing in Bloomsbury in

the daft hypotheses.

'profs", and to come up with

"She has as much chance of getting CJD as she has of being re-elected to the shadow cabinet." he scaffed.

This may be true. Ms Harman is unpopular on her own side (thanks only in part to her choice of school for her son), but is reviled on the other. Like Nelson Mandela. she is the loneliest Harman. Mr Dorrell carefully de-

clined to say whether his own children would be eating beef. He also declined to say what his own opinion was. "This is not the time for a lay minister to offer his views," he sugested modestly.

(Though this was not quite as modest as it looked. Like so many politicians' statements, it had a sub-text, in this case: "I'm not going to make an idiot of myself like that prancing prat Gummer.")
Dennis Skinner was out-

raged. "What d'yer get paid for then? [Gummer] made a judgment when he was stuffing the 'amburgers down that little kid's throat. And the Chief Medical Officer has made a judgment. He said he's prepared to die for his

government!"
Actually, this was the oppo site of what Mr Calman said, but such niceties never slow down Mr Skinner.

Next the Agriculture Min-ster, Douglas Hogg, made a statement about the implica-tions for farming. Mr Hogg is famed as the World's Rudest Legislator, so it was important for him to stay on a very tight rope. Mr Hogg's normal idea of a helpful reply could have halved beefstock prices

overnight.
So he was very quiet, very discreet, and refused to be rattled. He had all the jargon, such as "mammalian feed" (some farmers have been try-ing to get round this regulation, possibly by serving ground-up platypuses) and "de-boned carcasses". A Dboned steak certainly sounds delicious.

Nicholas Winterton (C. Macclestield) was in a rare bum-sucking mood (though perhaps more to his constitu-ents than to the government). 'I eat beef, my wife eats beef, our two sons and one daughter eat beef, and our six grand sons eat beef!" he said. If, in 10 years, the entire Winterton family are wiped out overnight, we shall at last have the proof we need.

story goes that two of the team, Dick Costolo and Phil

Granchi, got tired of the lack of openings in the theatre for

scientists. Their solution was

spin to the growth industry of

popularising science. A sort of three man Stephen Hawking, with jokes. Some of the time.

The problem is that the

hook can be more restrictive than it is liberating. Tonight's

hypothesis, "Amanda (audi-ence member) is not here",

was considered by the trio in

the guises of doctor, oceanog-rapher and taxidermist, and

proved to be one of those lec-

The "character acting" is fine — the consistent thread

the personae the three play:

respectively, old buffer, jar-gon fiend and young hotshot

— but the pride they take in finding unseen connections has insufficient pay off. The pleasurs in their invention

soon palls, when the gags fail

to come.
"More discipline needed"

tures where the "students" catch up on their sleep.

to rope in colleague Rich Fulcher, and lend a comedy

Regulator squeezes 'excess profit' in 4-year regime that pegs price movement to inflation less 7pc

BT told to cut phone bills

Nicholas Bannister

VERAGE phone bills should fall from £50 to £30 a quarter by the end of the century under proposed new price controls for British Telecom published yesterday.

Don Cruickshank, the in-

dustry regulator, said BTs main prices should continue to fall as the group became more efficient and increased its business. He is proposing group's current near monop-that for four years from oly of local phone networks.

August 1997 prices be cut by between 5 and 9 per cent be low the rate of inflation. Mr Cruickshank, director

general of Oftel, said that by 2001 BT would be making excessive operating profits on the regulated part of its business of about £1.5 billion a year. He was determined to squeeze out the excess and pass it on to customers. He forecast that by 2001

BT's share of the phone calls market could drop to between 60 and 70 per cent as new operators challenged the

By the time the new con- | only continued price caps for trols started in August 1997, cable companies would cover 60 per cent of the population and louica would have launched radio links.

regulatory affairs, said the regulator was being wildly optimistic as to what could be achieved. He warned that further price cuts would limit investment in the group's net-work and information superhighway services.

John Butler. BT's head of

Oftel's second consultative paper on how to control BT's prices when the current controls end recommends not

most of the group's retail sercharges other operators for use of its network.

Oftel yesterday put forward several options including reducing the price review period from four to two years However, Mr Cruickshank said he favoured a "steady as we go" approach with prices pegged at about 7 per cent below inflation for four years. At the moment BT has to cut a basket of retail prices annually by 7.5 per cent below

The regulator is stepping | tougher stance in its dealings up pressure on BT by insisting that the new price con-trols be part of a package which gives him sweeping powers to crack down on anticompetitive behaviour.

BT is adamant that the new powers should be offset by checks and balances, including an appeal procedure. It has indicated it would be pre-pared to risk the Monopolies Commission investigation rejection of the Oftel package. Mr Butler said his board was coming under pressure

with Oftel, and he noted that the directors would have to take a final decision on the package just before the group's annual meeting A spokeswoman for the

National Consumer Council said: "It is excellent news that the regulator has not buckled under pressure from the in-dustry to lift the price cap But the extent to which prices will fall will depend upon how which would be triggered by a BT juggles prices within the

Parent



Sir Patrick Sbeehy: quit as chairman three months ago



Sir Richard Doll: will

Cambridge row over tobacco sponsorship

Edward Pilkington

AMBRIDGE has be come the latest uni-versity to be engulfed in controversy over com-mercial sponsorship after it mercial sponsorship after it agreed to allow the world's second largest international second largest international Studies. Sir David Williams, the vice-chancellor, said he was "delighted to be able to honour Sir Patrick Patrick Sheehy Chair of International Relations, With smoking on the

named after the former chairman of BAT Indus-tries, makers of Benson and Hedges, Silk Cut and Lucky Strike cigarettes, has aroused fury among doc-tors and health campaignit year the company made record profits from tobacco sales of £1.56 billion.

The dispute is likely to fuel the debate about the propriety of commercial sponsorships, coming a week after dons at Balliol College, Oxford, accepted a Chair in European Thought donated by Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick, grandson of Nazi war criminal.

Under Cambridge's pro-posed package, BAT would donate £1.6 million towards the setting up of the profes-sorship and a bursary for inner-city undergraduates. In return, the university would pay for two post-doc-

toral appointments and four scholarships for stu-dents from developing countries, all bearing the tobacco company's name.

The package has been accepted by Cambridge's general board on behalf of the

wane in the UK and other western countries, the company has shifted its focus to new markets such as China and Russia. More than half of the 670 billion cigarettes it sold last year went to countries. Sir Keith Peters, Cam

bridge Regius Professor of Physic, led opposition to He referred to estimates that worldwide deaths caused by smoking would rise within 30 years to 10 million annually

Sir Richard Doll, an Oxford-based scientist who was one of the first to establish a link between smok-ing and cancer, said he would oppose "any move to commemorate Sir Patrick's contribution to society, which has been to cause great deal of disease."



Cambridge: smoking sponsorship controversy catches fire

Keith Ball, of the antismoking campaign, ASH. said he was appailed Cambridge was even consider-ing the plan. "Why is one of our most prestigious uni-versities alligning itself Other protests have come from the Duke of Gloucester, who is chairman of the Cancer Research Cam-

who slammed the proposed donation as a "cynical pub-

lic relations exercise". The university is to make a final decision on whether to accept the BAT endowment in May. If it agrees to

paigu. and Sir Walter all teaching staff later that Bodmer, head of the Impe-rial Cancer Research Fund, BAT denied it was encourmonth. A spokesman for BAT denied it was encouraging smoking in the devel-oping world and rejected claims that its sponsorship schemes manipulative.

Sir Patrick Sheehy, who retired as BAT chairman

killers face death

YLE and Erik Menen-dez. the Beverly Hills their parents, have been found guilty of murder by a jury in Los Angeles in their second trial, six years and seven months after the

The verdict, which found "special circumstances" in that the brothers conspired and had laid in wait, could bring the death penalty, to be decided at a special hearing. Otherwise they get 25 years in

Hollywood music firm executive José Menendez, aged 45. and his former beauty queen wife Kitty, aged 47, were found in pools of blood in their mansion after being shot 15 times with 12-bore shotguns. At first Lyle, now aged 28, and Erik, 25, suggested it was a mafia execution, and went on a million dollar spending spree. They bought Rolex watches to at-tend the funeral, invested in a restaurant and acquired

flashy sports cars. But only weeks before the first trial opened in 1993, they admitted to the murders in what became known as the "abuse excuse". They claimed that their father, with their abused them through their childhood and with Erik into

his teenage years.

They threatened to go public with the charges, a threat that created such tension that they were frightened for their own lives, and killed out of this fear. The prosecution argued that it was simple greed — the brothers wanted the \$15 million (£10 million) fortune their father was to leave them, money that has now been spent on legal and other costs while the brothers were

uncil tax

Separate juries for each brother were unable to agree on a verdict in the first trial. which ended in January, 1994. In the second trial the brothers had a much more difficult time presenting their abuse excuse. Judge Stanley Weisberg decided that the defence had shown insufficient evidence that the young men had killed out of duress and

This precluded Lyle Menendez from repeating his tearful testimony from the first trial a performance that had a significant impact on his jury. That jury was divided, with the women seeking a convic-tion for manslaughter only, and the men demanding a murder verdict. This time one jury of eight men and four women judged both cases.

The defence also faced risks in presenting Lyle again. After the last trial it was revealed that he had tried to coach witnesses to lie, a charge that could have been put to him. Prosecutors also kept out 30 witnesses from the brothers' circle of friends. tutors and relatives who were sympathetic

PM attacks 'patronising Labour rubbish'

tion, not revolution, is our watchword." There was no

Major contrasts Tory 'choice' with Opposition 'we know best'

"More discipline needed" would be the verdict on their report card, since, when they quicken up in the second half, and set time limits — prove a thesis in three minutes rather than in an hour — the fun begins. We finally get to see their minds moving. But for most of the evening. the science-culture divide seemed as wide as ever. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

OHN MAJOR yesterday staked his claim to a fifth Tory term in gov ernment by contrasting his own underdog's commitmen to "opportunity and choice" for ordinary voters with what he disparaged as Labour's condescending and do-goodcondescending and do-good-ing attitudes.

He called such attitudes "patronising rubbish." The real political divide was be-

tween opportunity and politi-cally correct opportunism —

destroying choice and inde-pendence in favour of a pat-ronising 'we know best' atti-tude," he said.

"But I don't view people without position or money from some lofty pedestal. I was one of them. I remember their hopes and the obstacles in their way," the former Brixton boy declared. "Their hopes are as varied as the

a Westminster think-tank, the Prime Minister made educational opportunity the centretween opportunity and politically correct opportunity — Although promising further reforms, he said: "Evoluablish inheritance tax. Some

leaves on the trees."
In a much-trailed address to

produce a solution for families who have to sell homes to pay for long-term care for themselves or elderly relatives.
"We're looking closely at
how we can help them meet

to endorse a scheme which would require people to sell commitment to go beyond Education Secretary Gillian Shephard's announcement in their homes, but allow them to keep the capital for their January that schools may be allowed to select up to 15 per est to pay care hills.

Mr Major spoke after a special Cabinet session had heard the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, lay out the cent of pupils without govern ment approval — an increase on the present 10 per cent. The Prime Minister also at-tacked familiar targets like prospects for the coming elec-

the European social chapter as a destroyer of jobs, extolled home ownership, and prom-ised that ministers will soon

regain up to 30 points of voter support lost to Labour. The Prime Minister's speech attempted to touch emotional chords, with

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— as a "crippling folly"
which had betrayed the very
children it was meant to help.
He defended "a spectrum of
schools," including selective ones — used by Mr Blair and Harriet Harman, he noted — as well as the assisted places His stance goaded Labour's tion campaign and the "feel-

deputy leader, John Prescott, who left school even younger than Mr Major, at 15, to protest last night that the Prime Minister's vision was one of good" themes ministers must trumpet if the Tories are to stead of a nation at work.

"a nation of handouts" in-Pledging the Tories to cut taxes and foster indepen-dence, Mr Major insisted that attacks on Tony Blair's revamped Labour Party, little different from Old Labour, in Mr Major's view. He singled out "progressive education" taxes and foster independence, Mr Major insisted the was fighting political rectness. "It's easy to warm-hearted with oth people's money," he said. he was fighting political correctness. "It's easy to be warm-hearted with other

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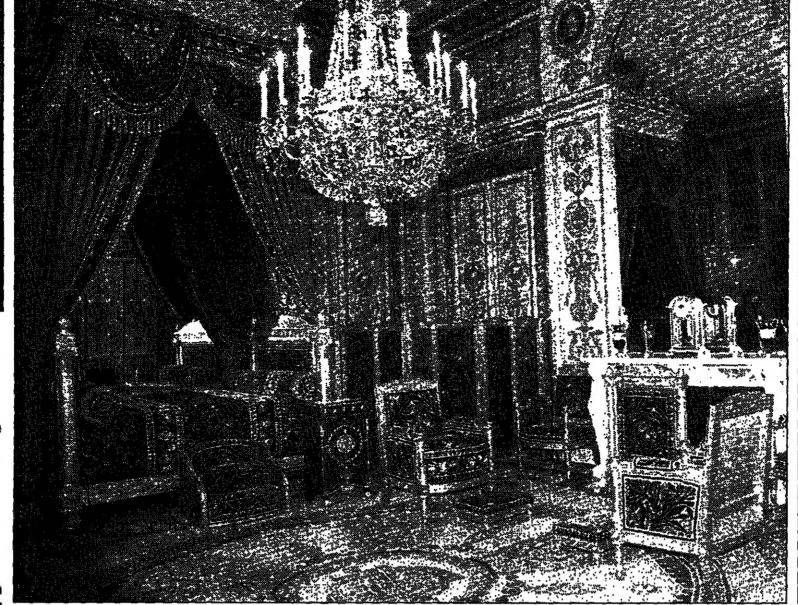
face

death



Twenty-five year labour of love sees royal château which saw the rise and fall of Bonaparte restored to its original splendour

> Paul Webster in Fontainebleau



Not tonight . . . Lavish furnishings were used in the renovation of the emperor's sleeping room (left), and a gilded imperial eagle was restored above his magnificent bed

NDRE Malraux's tion work on the château under a plan instituted by the writer Malraux, one of this city south of his last acts as President De Paris will finally come true | Gaulle's culture minister this weekend when Napo-leon Bonaparte's renovated and hundreds of craftsapartments are again workers have revived for-opened to the public. gotten techniques to re-cre-completion of the suite of ate sumptuous wall

six rooms is the culmina-tion of 25 years of restora-period furniture.

The château "has links with all French sovereigns since St Louis in the 12th century", Amaury Lefe-bure, the chateau's curator, told a VIP tour before

tomorrow's opening.
"But it is particularly impregnated with Napoleon's influence. The emperor

He said the rooms "are marked by some of the most important events of the First Empire, although Napoleon only stayed here for a total of 170 days between

paign headquarters after a suite of private rooms used military school was established in the building in 1803."

suite of private rooms used by Louis XVI and met Pope Pius VII there in 1804 just before his coronation as

But other visits by Bona-parte coincided with disas-ters, including the aftermath of defeat in Russia and preparations for exile in Elba. In April 1814 he

chateau's courtyard.

The imperial waiting rooms, bathroom and pri-vate drawing rooms are sumptuously furnished. but they look almost ordinary in comparison to the emperor's bedroom and pri-vate office. In these rooms.

ment before officially tak-ing leave of his army in the re-woven in their original Mr Lefebure said. colours and a huge gilded

imperial eagle has been restored above a magnifi-cent bed. "It is difficult to assess the cost because it has been spread over 25 years, most in the last eight years, but

more than £1,000 a metre,

The completion of Mal-raux's 25-year plan has not ended Mr Lefebure's worries for the château, which attracts about 450,000 visitors a year. Renovation work of 25 years ago shows signs of wear and new

Howard wants 3-year minimum for 3-time burglars

Plans would demand 12 jails and home office ministers Ann add 10,000 to prison population Widecombe and David Maclean will meet the Parole Board today to hear their

ilan Travis

URGLARS convicted a third time will be automatically senin prison under US-style plans for stiff minimum sentences to be revealed by the Home Secretary shortly.
The forthcoming white

paper on sentencing, which debate with the senior more previous burglary has already provoked criticity, which has run over convictions.

victed dealers in class A drugs such as beroin and cocaine face a minimum prison term of at least six

years. Confirmation that judges' discretion in sentencing some of the 13,000 burglars who are imprisoned each year is to be limited by the introduction of minimum sentences will reopen Michael Howard's

In response to complaints that sentences are already too tough, Mr Howard says: "I've got a simple answer. If you don't want the time, don't do

the crime.' The expected three-year minimum for burglars is double the average sentence of 17.6 months currently handed down by the crown courts to those who have 10 or

Ministers hope to publish the white paper before the Commons rises for the Easter Recess in a formight. It is expected to say that the

sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers, will add about 10,000 a year to the current prison population of

The extra 12 prisons needed to house them could cost up to £1.1 billion.

In the face of these costs the Treasury is insisting that Mr Howard announces that the white paper sentencing pro-posals be phased in over sev-eral years.

His plan to give automatic discretion to decide whether gaining to end the backlog of remission, which will have to "discretionary life" sentences time spent by the prisoner in to rapists and other violent custody on remand should criminals who reoffend is count towards the final sentencing by aboli expansion of the prison discito rapists and other violent criminals who reoffend is likely to be adopted first as it impact on the prison his or her defence.

The white paper will also

tence, dependent on whether

G The introduction of "hon-esty into sentencing" by abol-ishing automatic remission of

his or her defence.

This will meet concerns of the Lord Chancellor and the Home Office to develop senThis will be restricted to

pline system.

□ The Lord

Lord Taylor, is expected to issue a "practice direction" to judges to ensure that their propose:

Home Office to develop sentropese:

This will be restricted to sentencing takes account of around 15 to 20 per cent the abolition of early release.

Council tax bills to rise by 6pc

munity Affairs Editor

OUNCIL tax payers in England face 6.2 per cent increases in their bills next year — twice the level of inflation — as ministers make them bear more of the cost of local government. Levies for two adults living in a band D property — homes worth between £68,000 and £88,900 — will average £647, the Government said

be 10.4 per cent, outer London 5.1 per cent, other metropolitan areas 6.8 per cent and shire counties 5.9 per cent. Party leaders used the figures to fire the first shots in

yesterday.

campaigns for local govern-ment elections in May, with Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, criticising "disgraceful" local

He said band D charges were £225 a year, or £19 a week, higher in Labour-run councils, and £12 a week higher in Liberal Democrat

councils. The Tories used those councils where one party was res-ponsible for setting all the council tax, disregarding twotier areas where Labour or the Liberal Democrats were in control of one tier.

Figures to be published by the influential Local Govern-ment Chronicle tomorrow, Rises in inner London will including authorities where the Tories are the largest single party and where they do not control both tiers, suggest narrower differences — of just over £134 a year at band D.

Council tax bills might even be lower in Labour areas than Tory areas, £521.90 comtypically they have fewer ex-

generation of romantics, ac-

cording to a report into

spending patterns released yesterday. It found consum-ers racking up debt in restau-

rants, clubs and hotels at a

time when they were cutting

back on all other spending. Figures from the Credit Card Research Group showed

that only entertainment and

hotels escaped the February

belt-tightening that always

Christmas and the New Year

Labour's Frank Dobson condemned the "ludicrous" system that determined the amounts local authorities were given in grants and how much they needed to raise

through council tax. The "Tory funding fiddle" meant nearly all Westminster council's spending was met by the Government, leaving the authority to levy the lowest council tax, at £295 for band D payers.

"If every council got the same help per head of popula-tion, 94 per cent would not have to collect council tax at all. They'd be able to pay out The row overshadowed

among average performers.

credit and debit card issuers.

Data from the Government yesterday indicated that

retail sales - which exclude

restaurants and hotels were up by 0.6 per cent in

February, after a fall of a sim-

ilar size in January.

publication by the Audit Commission of league tables for council services last year. Many authorities with poor records improved sharply, but there was little change

Romance makes spendthrifts of post-festive pennypinchers

confirmed wide disparity in government grants to coun-cils based on need and

geography.

Mr Dobson said the council tax rises were "so driven by grant considerations as to be not much use. The Govern-ment has undoubtedly rigged

David Rendel, for the Liberal Democrats, also con-demned the help given the Tory London boroughs of Wandsworth, and Kensington and Chelsea, while pointing out that Westminster, even with its grant, had set a tax far lower than its chief execu-

tive deemed prudent. Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission, said: "Overall, most councils provide a good service at reasonable cost but there are some who fall well short of what by most standards would be seen as desirable."

remained as stingy as ever

and the surge in card spend-ing was due to women taking

advantage of the leap year to woo their reluctant boy friends on February 29.

High street sales rebound,

sales. Spending in hotels was of the group, said: "People 10 per cent higher than in tend to be more frugal in Feb-

January and spending on ruary, but it seems that Brit-entertainment up by 3 per ain is turning into a nation of cent, the group said. It lob-bies on behalf of the main explanation was that men

Elizabeth Phillips, director | Notebook, page 11

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Larry Elliott

Economics Editor

OVERS once content to

say it with flowers are

now more likely to say it with

plastic as they splash out on Valentine's Day for a candlelit meal à deux or a night of

A dozen red roses or a big

longer lavish enough on Feb follows the extravagance of

box of chocolates are no

ruary 14 for Britain's new

passion in a posh hotel.

This tribe of post-industrial gypsies inhabit a netherworld of drifters and dreamers, of wild ambition and burnt-out despair. of generosity and betrayal, of sharks and scarns and easy violence. Fortunes, large and small, are being made and lost on what is Europe's and perhaps the world's biggest building site.



Scientists yet to discover how disease is transmitted to humans ● Consumer confidence paramount, says NFU

Twists and turns on trail of a killer

Since 1985, BSE has spread the beef? to mice, cats and ostriches

Tim Radford Science Edito

N 1985, a previously healthy Holstein dairy cow suddenly became then aggressive and unpredictable.

riddled with holes, like a burgh Western general sponge. The disease was given a name in 1986 and by although there seemed to be a cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE or Mad Cow Disease in Britain. By the summer of 1988, there were 731 reported cases on 590 farms in Britain and the Channel Islands.

Scientists already knew four things about BSE. It was remarkably like scrapie, which had only been known to occur in sheep, and Creutz-feld-Jakob Disease or CJD which worldwide kills about one person per million a year. It was also like mink en-

cephalopathy and kuru, a disease of a group of tribesmen in Papua-New Guinea who ritually ate human brains. All these diseases are marked by

The open window for infection

to pass to man from 1985 to 1989 was closed'

tell-tale loss of co-ordination and degeneration of the brain. The Ministry of Agriculture made BSE a notifiable disease, at the same time declaring that there was no risk to humans. Thus began a pat-tern of ambivalent signals which continued until yester-

Infected cattle were slaugh-tered and the sale of all beef thymus, spleen, tonsils, spinal cord and brains was banned. But ministers repeatedly assured the public and foreign markets that the risk of transmission to humans was negligible.

Campaigners however said that no one understood how the BSE was transmitted. Secondly, the eruption of the disease was linked with the practice of feeding cattle with the treated carcases of other dead ruminants such as sheep. There had been a change in the standards for the treatment of this gruesome protein supplement, and the guess was that sheep scra-pie had somehow made the

But if a disease jumped from one species to another campaigners argued, then surely it could leap to

Over the next few years, the disease progressed by leaps and bounds. It leaped into thousands of head of cattle. and it bounded into 200 and farm and parkland creatures such as elk, mice, marmosets pigs. antelopes, kudu, oryz, eland, cheetah, puma, ocelot. domestic cat and even

Many of these were given feed which might have been variant of BSE appeared in more species, it became increasingly difficult for minis- | now been rectified."

ters and scientists to say that there was negligible risk to The Department of Health's CJD surveillance unit in Edinburgh has been watching the pattern of incidence of the disease to see if there was a clear link with BSE. The patnpredictable. tern until now has been puz-its brain was found to be zling. Robert Will, of Edin-1987, there were 20 known high proportion of farm work-cases of bovine spongiform ers who died of CJD in recent years, the proportion of min-isters of religion was even

higher. There had been, until very recently, no abattoir workers with the disease, although these would have been most fusingly, the one-in-a-million incidence of CJD seemed to be the same everywhere scien-tists looked: in Europe, where there was no BSE but where people ate beef, and in India, where cows are sacred and

many are vegetarians. Even now, scientists do not understand how the disease is transmitted. The favoured candidate has been an infectious protein called a prion which converts normal protein molecules into dangerous ones by inducing them to change shape. But not everybody is confident about prions: it is still possible that an as-yet-to-be-detected virus

is involved.
There was also the problem about the rate of the growth of the disease. In 1994 there had een more than 50 cases. By November 1995, there had been only 39.

But by November 1995, things had started to change. Researchers reported in the British Medical Journal on the new clutch of cases, infour dairy farmers. One of the researchers, Sheila Gore of the Medical Research Council's biostatistics unit at Cam-

Steve Dealler, a microbiolo gist at Burnley general hospital and secretary of the Spor giform Encephalopathy Research Campaign has been pointing out since 1993 that for every cow destroyed be-cause of BSE, there may be hundreds slaughtered and sold to butchers before the symptoms have developed. On his reckoning, by the year 2000 the British could have eaten 1.8 million infected

shifted its position. Dr Dealler was not satisfied. The evidence had been available much earlier, he said.

"The epidemiology was done by Sheila Gore and printed last year in the British Medical Journal: that showed the number of cases in farmers had increased, as had the number of cases in teenagers: these cases were so unlikely it could not have happened by chance." John Bourne, director of

the Institute for Animal Health at Compton in Berkshire, said last night: "There fection to pass to man in the period 1985 to 1989. That win-dow was then closed. There may have been odd chinks in that window, but that has

Where's

As well as beef being used in the manufacture of pies, sausages and burgers, beef products (including gelatine and suet, which can still be made from cattle vertebrae) are found in unexpected foods some of which are listed below. There is no suggestion that these products contain BSE-infected material.

Foods which contain beef, beef bone stock,

- Chicken gravy granules
- Stuffing mixes Frankfurters
- Christmas pudding

Foods which usually contain unspecified gelatine or animal fats

- Baby food eg chicken casserole mixed vegetables, spaghetti and
- Biscuits eg digestive, ginger nuts Sweets - eg fruit pastilles, wine
- gums, liquorice alisorts Tinned and frozen puddings
- Chilled deserts eg fromage frais
- Supplements sg vitamin
- capsules, cod liver oil

March 1993 History of BSE July 1993 Dairy farmer Mark Duncan

May 1995 Stephen Churchill, aged 19,

Michell Bowen, 29, dies six weeks after giving birth; CJD

February 1996 Abbatoir worker Leonard Franklin and Peter Hall, aged

strain of CJD is linked to

dies from CJD

have died from CJD

November 1995

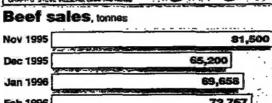
Government appoints Southwood Committee to

June 1988 Southwood Committee makes immediate recommendations: infected animals be destroyed; milk from infected animals be disposed of; further research be commis

August 1988 Government orders staughter of all BSE-infected animals

Southwood Report published. "It is most unlikely that BSE will have any implications for human health," it says

May 1990 CJD surveillance unit









John Gummer (top), and his daughter demonstrating the safety of beef. Jean Wake (above left), and Michelle Bowen, possible victims of the newly discovered strain of CJD

Question of taste

It is quite clear to me our beef is safe. My own family eats beef and I have no worry about that. There is no evidence anywhere in the world of BSE passing from animals to humans' John Gummer Agriculture Minister

January 1990 There is currently no scientific evidence that BSE can be transmitted to humans or that eating beef causes CJD in

humans. That issue is

not in question' John Major December 1995

BSE is not transmissible to humans and that in any event our controls are effective enough to prevent the infective agent getting into the human food chain'

Douglas Hogg Agriculture Minister December 1995

Upbeat mood gives way to forebodings for farmers

Industry

NTIL 3.30pm yesterday, the beef cattle industry confident it could persuade the public to return to lean steaks and minced meat. Consumption of beef per head of population has fallen

family roast. The mood was upbeat amone the thousands of exhibitors and visitors at the Beef '96 fair, held last week at the National Agricultural

and the decline of the Sunday

nary officer who was extremely optimistic about BSE," said Richard Sibley, secretary of the British Cattle Veterinary Association.
"People were feeling buoy-

ant and concentrating on the prospects of producing qual-ity meat for the supermarket shelves. The disease is going from herds. From an animal health point of view it's been bridge, concluded the connection was "more than 15 per cent in 10 a successful campaign. The vears, but farmers insisted outbreak is under control."

happenstance." by more than 15 per cent in 10 a successful campaign. The outbreak is under control." By contrast, reaction to the Commons statement vesterday mingled resentment at another round of "scare stories" with deeper forebodings.

"The measures annous by the Government and the public's reaction to them will Centre's showground, in have serious implications for

Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. all cattle farmers," warned land and Shrewsbury.
"There was a presentation | Sir David Naish, the president of the National Farmers." plications. There was a p Union (NFU).

"Consumer confidence in the quality of the meat people eat is paramount. The NFU has been calling for the Gov-ernment to publish all the advice it has received from its experts. This is the only way public confidence in beef can he maintained."

Though the incidence of BSE infected cattle has dustry, stayed slient.

BSE ag muscle. cases a week in 1991 to Commission last night said it around 300 a week, the revelation that there appears to be a new, human form of the disease threatens to suppress beef consumption further. "It's not very positive for

us." said a spokesman for ABP, a company which owns slaugherhouses in York, Scotare concerned about the implications. There was a probem with sales in December [coinciding with the last crop of BSE stories], but there has

been a good recovery since."

Most producers were keeping their heads down. The Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, which represents most slaughterbouses, and Midland Meat Packers. another large player in the in-

suffered through BSE. Total sales to the consum 1994 amounted to £1.86 billion. In November and December last year, they fell by 17 per cent. They have recovered since by around 5 per cent.

A commission spokesman

the impact of the announce-ment. "We welcome the news that there remains no scien-tific proof that BSE can be transmitted by beef to men.

"The latest research shows there's a possibility that a number of CJD cases might be associated with access to BSE agents but they are all before the removal of offal from the food chain ordered in 1988. It does not suggest the BSE agent can be found in

Richard Wood, the managing director of Ashford Cattle Market, was less guarded. The whole thing has been blown up out of proportion. How many people have died of smoking since 1988, for example? Ten is not that many leaths. But we are all fed up

yesterday attempted to defuse | handled. If there is a problem it's been forced on others outside our influence.

In Germany, the health ministry said it would con-sider the developments. Bonn is embroiled in a row with the European Commission after five regions banned British beef. They have been accused of breaching the principle of a free market.
One Kent farmer. Brian Frith, whose cattle have

never had a case of BSE, said the Government should have taken early claims of risks to "If the Government had

humans more seriously said they didn't know if there were any risks to humans and had set up a proper pro-gramme of slaughtering in-fected herds and issuing lists of safe farms, there wouldn't with the way it's been have been such a problem."

Public 'left confused'

Consumers

Sarah Boseley

government statement.

was an open window for in-

HE Consumers' Association accused the Government yesterday of failing to calm public anxieties about BSE and beef, as the supermarkets and burger chains did their best to play down the significance of the

The Ministry of Agricul-ture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) had given "blanket reassurances that beef is safe to eat, but consumers remain to be convinced," said Laura Simons, the association's senior public affairs officer. This assurance had now been challenged. "Consumers more information to cut through current confusion."
The association called for more and better labelling of meat products and for the he nublicly available

Up to 10,000 schools have taken beef off the menu, or offer alternatives, according to the Local Authority Caterers' Association (LACA), which last December advised its members, in response to parents' concern, to substi-tute pork and poultry dishes for beefburgers and beef sau-sages in school canteens. Its spokesman, Arnold Fewell, said it expected a strong reaction to yesterday's announcement in those

schools still serving beef.

"The level of concern had

want and need to know if they fallen," said Mr Fewell. "We should eat beef. We need couldn't believe what we were hearing this morning. The burger chains and supermarkets rested their case on the quality of their beef. "All meat sold by Sains-bury's is sourced from approved suppliers, who are vis-

ited regularly by qualified food technologists to ensure that our controls and standards are properly and rigorously enforced," said Geoff Spriegel, the chain's director of scientific services. McDonald's said it used only "prime cuts of boneless beef — lean flank and fore-quarter — in which BSE has

never been detected."

The Beefeater chain of 285 staurants said they used steaks only from Argentina and Australia, "which have never had a case of BSE".

Gloom over cattle country

Producers

Erlend Clouston

N the kitchen at Gloagburn farmhouse, the faces grew in length with the Health expect anything else," snorted 64-year-old John Ni-ven as Mr Dorrell explained to Radio 5 listeners why it was, well, just about totally safe to eat meat. "You get to the stage where you're fed up with it," groaned his son Ian. Across the yard at the Perthshire farm, 27 tawny bullocks munched their hay oblivious to the fact that their value to the Niven household had probably just plummeted.

Last November's BSE scare

knocked 28p a kilo off the deadweight price of Gloag-burn beef, which multiplies up to £100 per steer. Unless the public shows unwonted resilience to lurid headlines, the same is likely to happen again, which, when you're selling 250 cattle a year, has a devastating effect on income. "If they can't give a definite answer they should shut up, grumbled John, whose father first took the lease of 450-acre Gloagburn in 1924.

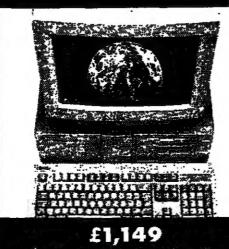
Adding to the Nivens' sense of injustice is the fact Scot-land, for whom the beef trade is worth £500 million annually, appeared to be conquer-ing BSE. In the first quarter of 1993 there were 394 reported cases; this year it is down to 41. "I don't know of

So how many drivers were killed on the roads each year's "if you're not going to catch anything you'll have to live in a glass bowl." Ian sniffed as four-year-old daughter Annabel, one of seven mouths de-pendent on decent beef prices, crammed a homemade cheese biscuit to her face.

Down the road at the 140-

year-old Perth auction mart, the world's biggest weekly processor of pedigree beef the same philosophy applied. Its restaurant menu defiantly offered a £4.95 cher's special of steak pie. "Och, it does cross your mind, but look at salmonella and eggs. shrugged cook Joan Young son. "We do offer a choice of fish and vegetarian, but the majority go for meat. Everyanyone around here who's body's days are numbered, had it," protested John.

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WHITEHALL PURGE: Ombudsman warns of more workload mistakes amid benefit staff slimdown, Treasury losses and HSE alarm

Cuts to cost 21,000 social security jobs

David Brindle, Social

jobs will be axed under the Government's drive to cut social security running costs by a quarter over the next three years, it emerged

Official plans show the staffing complement of the Department of Social Security and its agencies will fall from 100,000 to fewer than 79,000 by 1998/99. The figures reflect an unprecedented jobs purge across Whitehall. Earlier this week, it was disclosed that 12,000 posts in Treasury departments are to go over the next three years, including more than 2.500 in Customs and Excise and 6,700 in the

Inland Revenue. Barry Ramsbottom, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, a civil service union, said: "The Government doesn't seem to realise there could be more votes lost in savaging the Civil Service than there are to

The DSS annual report shows that gross spending on running costs is planned to fall by 10 per cent between 1995/96 and 1998/99, after rising next year to £3.5 billion. A department spokes-

woman said the figure in the last year, £3.1 billion, would be 25 per cent below what it would otherwise be if costs were allowed to rise in line with expected workload.

Staff numbers, including casuals and posts represented by overtime, are planned to 28pc rise in complaints

fall from 100,152 in 1995/96 to | and Urdu. The agency says is 78,589 in 1998/99. Almost is examining alternatives to 17,000 jobs, the bulk of the reduction, will be lost among

permanent staff. The report says the cuts will be achieved by simplifying procedures, maximising use of computer systems and introducing a "purchaser/ provider" system of payment by results that will "involve both DSS staff and the private

Jim Boyd, president of the DSS group of the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union, said: "Ministers and officials have been trying to convince us there might not be leaves as a lab locate but the leaves and in the leaves are labeled to the labeled to the leaves are labeled to the labe be large-scale job losses, but here is the proof."

Although ministers have said the cuts will not affect services to claimants, one of the first casualties looks like being the Benefits Agency's free telephone inquiry service in English, Chinese, Punjabi



cluding a local-rate service Any change will not affect the free inquiry line for disabled people and that which helps people complete claim forms.

mentary ombudsman. restates his warning that civil service staff cuts will lead to worse service to the public

Mr Reid first spoke out last week in a report on the Child Support Agency. His annual report today shows a 28 per cent rise in complaints referred to him by MPs last

He said: "There is a risk that fewer staff will lead to both slower service to the public and to more mistakes ... I doubt whether automa-tion and technology will compensate fully for cuts in buman resources."

rising tide of fraud among the memployed led the National Audit Office today to refuse to approve the accounts of the National Insurance Fund, writes David Hencke. Sir John Bourn, the Comp-

troller and Auditor General, says that some £86 million claimed by the unemployed has been declared to be fraudulent. He is unable to find out how much paid out in benefit to the long term unemployed through other social security enefits is genuine.

Social Security Departmental Report; HMSO; £16. Annual Administration; HMSO; £11.85



Staff at Croydon social security office . . . spending on DSS running costs is set for 10 pc fall by 1998-99

Labour accused of shroud waving as union backs health and safety fears

ABOUR'S employment ney, was accused by the Government yesterday of shroud waving after he claimed that cuts in the Health and Safety Commission's budget, revealed in a leaked letter from the commission's chairbudget, showed that the safety of youngsters on training

writes Patrick Wintour.

ment training schem properly monitored by the Health and Safety Executive. He refused to respond to Mr McCartney's claim that the letter showed the proposed cuts would lead to death and injury in the workplace.

all the expectations and cuts and increased workload. requirements that the Government Parliament and the courts are placing on us."

As an official inquiry was IPMS allegations when the

Mr McCartney was attacked in the Commons by ment Secretary, John Gumbase Paice, training minister, who insisted that govern-funding cuts "we cannot meet" because of staff and funding with the matter have been reduced extinction

> The Liberal Democrat spokesman, Nick Harvey, said: "Normally Opposition

mounted into the source of HSE's annual report was MPs are the first to complain the leak, a civil service union, the Institute of Professional issued in November. He added: "The truth is out now. of spending cuts, but when a government agency makes and Managerial Staffs, said While the HSE is carrying this plea it shows the system the commission chairman, I the letter confirmed what the I through major initiatives on I is in crisis."

said this week that enlarge ment of the EU to the eas

would not be worth it if the price was more QMV — a reversal of the Thatcherite theory than a wider EU would

chance" to reverse the Maas-

Labour's Peter Shore is warn-

ing colleagues that the goal of

ria for launching a single currency.
Like many Tory sceptics.

of their departments.
No such distinction was

made in Questions of Proce-dure for Ministers — their

code of conduct - and if the

distinction was upheld it

might ensure "that ministers

were never identified as being responsible for any failure".

If ministers were no longer

responsible for the conduct of their departments, "who is accountable to Parliament for

ning permissions were

given "against the stron-gest advice of staff on plan-

ning and technical grounds." He says: "Any

reasonable outside ob-

server must conclude that the committee has been ma-

The report says that Mr

Crossland's performance "fell below that which the

public is entitled to expect

from elected members who

are chairs of committees."

It adds that blame must be shared with the Opposition group leader, Bernard Simcox.

The report calls for the resignation of the entire committee, and the revoca-

nipulated in some way.

tricht Treaty's push towards a federal Europe, while

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£1001-£1500	<i>£</i> 295	£395	£1.52 per week
Over £1500	995	£495	£1.90 per week





Pro-Europe MPs warn against veto 'defeatism'

N ALL-party campaign of pro-European MPs last night urged John Major to use the forthcoming Maastricht review conference of advantage within the Euroon the veto is unwarranted pean Union towards reforms ... in fact Britain is very

Britain wants to see. With Tory Euro-sceptics maintaining a heavy barrage of fire ahead of tonight's Commons debate on the Cabinet' white paper — outlining its position for the inter-governmental conference (IGC) be-ginning on March 29 — the European Movement warned against taking "an inflexible stance" on the key question of qualified majority voting, so-

tonight's vote by imposing only a one-line whip. A statement on elections in North-ern Ireland also seems timed to downgrade its importance.

Last night Europhile MPs argued that ministers were "wrong in principle" to op-pose an extension of QMV into new policy areas, because such changes were Bill Cash . . . 'last chance needed to ensure tougher to reverse federal push'

Richard Norton-Taylor

CENIOR Whitehall offi-

Scials last night warned ministers against mak-

ing them carry the can for the

sweeping criticisms of the Government machine in the

Scott report on the arms-to-

Iraq scandal. Liz Symons, general secre-

tary of the First Division Association, which repre-sents top civil servants, told MPs it would be "very un-

fair" if officials had to take the blame for Sir Richard

Scott's criticisms while min-

isters avoided responsibility

POLICE are to investigate four years of decisions

by a district council whose

entire planning committee

has been told to resign in

the face of evidence of "ma-

nipulation" involving a

developer.
An independent report

commissioned by Labour-controlled Bassetlaw in

Nottinghamshire castigates

an "extraordinary" system which saw the Labour plan-

ning chairman and his Con-

deputy, Don Grundy, were

sacked by Labour yester-

for misleading Parliament.

Martin Wainwright

action against fraud, curb excess spending on regional policles and direct research funds towards British projects, notably in hi-tech areas like defence and medicine. It had already proved vital in making the internal market work better, they said. "Britain's defeatist mentality

rarely outvoted in the Coun-cil of Ministers" — less so than Germany, which sup-ports extended QMV.

called OMV. Ministers are playing down



civil servants and Whitehall lawyers will be disciplined.

Ms Symons told the Com-

mons public service commit-tee, which is investigating the

report's constitutional impli-cations, that the practice of

giving "incomplete answers" to MPs had led to tensions

In written evidence, the FDA attacked the distinction

ministers are now making in

accepting notional "account ability" to Parliament while distancing themselves from

"responsibility" for the activities of their departments.

The FDA also attacked min-isters, notably Michael How-

ard, the Home Secretary, for

distinguishing between policy

Police called in after planning councillors told to guit

and the party's six other

committee members will step down. The three Con-

servative and solitary Inde-

pendent committee mem-

bers will support calling in

the police at a full council

The inquiry was ordered

after public unease about 12 planning applications in four years, including deci-sions in favour of new

housing and a super-

market. All involved a Not-

tinghamshire developer

who has not been named,

and an estimated £6 million increase in land values on

The inquiry chairman, Richard Phelps, a retired

manager and planning in-

the sites approved.

meeting tomorrow.

day after refusing to resign, | spector, concludes plan-

new town development tion of the tainted planning

within the Civil Service.

relieved of divorce bill role Such talk infuriates Euros-ceptics, who fear the federal-

ist ratchet. John Redwood

OHN Major has instructed the Cabinet Office to take over full responsibility for the rough ride suffered by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Yesterday the Tories' Bill Mackay, in the House of Cash called the IGC "our last Lords.

Home Office

Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and married for 27 years, has been chosen to lead Monday's second reading debate on the Family Law Bill.

full employment must be added to the Maastricht crite-Downing Street faces the certainty of a big Conserva-tive rebellion led by John Pat-tan, a former Cabinet minister, against making divorce

Mr Shore wants a referendum on a single currency, though this week leaders of the 100strong 92 Group of Tory MPs told John Major that a maniing to avoid a further damag-ing split in the party by enfesto commitment to that effect would satisfy them. suring a free vote on whether couples should have to wait 12 months, 18 months or two

Many MPs are unhappy about Mr Major's likely referyears before getting a divorce. Mr Freeman, despite havendum pledge, and one cam-paigner, the Major loyalist Sir ing one of the lowest profiles Terence Higgins, has warned in the Cabinet, has insisted ministers that if they lose a that a free vote must be a key part of the package to avoid personal humiliation over the referendum campaign they cannot simply accept the vot-ers' verdict. "They whould have to resign," he said.

handling of the issue. Ministers had intended that the Home Office should handle Lord Mackay's bill in the Commons and had put a Officials reject Scott blame junior minister, Jonathan Evans, a practicising Catho-lic, in place to steer it through. He will now play only a minor role in summing - for which they took respon-sibility - and the operations up for the Government in the debate.

The Cabinet Office will also have a strict role in monitor-ing the detail of the legislation through Sir Robin But-ler, the Cabinet Secretary.

This will enable the Cabi net sub-committee monitor ing the bill to take swift decisions on other controversial amendments, including the unresolved problem of how to handle the issue of pensionsplitting at the time of divorce

the actions of the civil servants?" the FDA asked. The Lords defeated the Gov-It opened up the prospect of civil servants becoming resernment by insisting that pensions be split, but minis-ters think this may be unponsible to Parliament by giving evidence on their own behalf to Commons committees. workable in law.

TODAY IN PARLIAMENT

Nouse of Commons: Northern Ireland questions, Prime Minister's questions.Debate on Europea Intergovernmental conference. Backberich debate on lottery beneficiaries in west Suffolk, opened by Richard Spring (C).

House of Lords: Northern Irela (Emergency Provisions) Bill, second reading. Deer Scotland) Bill, report. Criminal Legal Aid (Scot



COMPUTER Dixons Currys PCWORLD

servative counterpart "run the planning machine" in defiance of officials' advice. The committee chairman, Graham Crossland, and his

Yelstin back in two-man race

Christopher promises bigger Nato

James Meek in Moscow sees a fitter president voters were undecided. A string of candidates capable shaping up to challenge his Communist rival

tween two widely talised Boris Yeltsin makes up ground lost to his Communist rival, Gennady Zyuganov. A poll published yesterday

echoed the results of other surveys this week, showing Mr Yeltsin has moved up to second place behind the Com-munist leader as a string of marginal candidates fall by the wayside.

This is an extraordinary political spring for the Russian president after a long bleak winter lying seventh or eighth in the ratings. It fol-lows months of war in Che-chenia and chronic delays in

World new in brief

Britain pledges

£17m for Bosnia

the Nato-led peace implementation force (I-For).

British sources say the United States, initially reluctant to pay for even administrative costs, now realises its tight Decem-

ber deadline for military withdrawsi can be met only if the civilian effort makes progress. Of the total, £3 million is to be spent on "free and fair"

Papandreou 'recovers'

Aids film imitates life

estimated £40 million profit.

elections. But the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) estimates their cost at £100 million. — Ian

TO THE astonishment of Greeks, doctors say Andreas Papandreou, the former prime minister, is to be released from hospital today.

"Short of developing a fever or a new lung infection, he will be
"Short of developing a fever or a new lung infection, he will be out," said one of a team of 25 physicians who have been treating Mr Papandreou, aged 77, at the Onasseion heart centre in Athens since November. He was in critical condition and on life support

for several weeks, after suffering kidney and lung failure.
On being admitted into intensive care, Mr Papandreou was given a 3 per cent chance of survival. — Helena Smith, Athens.

AFTER years of legal wrangling, the makers of the Oscar-winning film Philadelphia have conceded that the movie, starring Tom Hanks, was "inspired in part" by the story of a New York lawyer who was sacked because he suffered from Alds.

Tristar Pictures said it reached a settlement on Tuesday with the family of Geoffrey Bowers, the attorney who died in 1987. It is understood the family will receive a sizeable share of the film's

The case has sent nervous tremors through Hollywood because

of its potential implications for films loosely based on or inspired by real life stories. — Lan Katz, New York.

THE struggle for the spite his heart attacks, his presidency of Russia long absences from the Kremis shaping up as a straight fight be-baviour on the public stage. "It will be Yeltsin versus
Zyuganov." said Boris Grushin, head of the polling
organisation Vox Populi. "No one else is capable of reach-

ing the second round." Russia's election rules say that if no candidate gets more than 50 per cent of the vote in than 50 per cent of the vote in the first round, due on June 16, the two best-placed go through to a second round, probably on July 14.

The shuffling, bloated, dazed figure that Mr Yeltsin cut after his second heart attack in October seemed increasely of running for presi-

capable of running for president, let alone winning, and even a month ago Mr Zyuganov the clear leader on 19.1 per cent, with Mr Yeltsin second on 14 per cent, Tellganov looked quite likely to ingly, almost 30 per cent of

run-off. Mr Yeltsin remains unpop-

ular, but looks like the only real challenger to the Com-munists. "The election campaign is shaping up to be a bipolar contest." said Dr Kyrill Kholodkovsky from the think tank Imemo. "That doesn't mean all the voters will divide themselves into two camps of Yeltsinites and Zyuganov supporters. All the same I think the process of concentrating the votes around these two candidates will continue."

The latest poll showed Mr Zyuganov the clear leader on

Nominally independent | news organisations like the of shaving slivers off the leadnercial television chaners' vote have dropped out. Soviet revivalists Alexander nel NTV or the newspaper 12vestiya, reluctant to support Mr Yeltsin directly, are con-centrating on attacking the Communists and squeezing Rutskoi and Victor Anpilov have thrown in their lot with Mr Zyuganov, while economic rightwingers like Vic-tor Chernomyrdin. Yegor Gaiout the rest. "Many journalists under-stand that clear support for

dar and Boris Fyodorov are virtually certain to back Mr Yeltsin. Yeltsin could turn out to be counter-productive," said Mr Kholodkovsky. "It's possible the support could take more There are two rivals yet to he marginalised, Mr Zhirin-ovsky — lying fourth but al-ways underestimated by pollsubtle forms: let's say an in-formation blockade of certain alternative voices from the sters — and Mr Yavlinsky, who has vowed he will never democratic camp, such as support either Mr Yeltsin or Mr Zyuganov and will not pull out of the race.

Though Mr Yeltsin now looked trimmer and fitter, spoke soberly with a grasp of Moscow pundits are in-creasingly speculating about a surreal partnership be-tween the intellectural Mr a surreal partnership between the intellectural Mr
yavlinsky and the authoritarian General Alexander Lebed
to provide an alternative ing to disappear, said Mr ing to disappear, said Grushin.

"Yeltsin did indeed bave a very low rating, and still does. His position today is very weak but it's incomparably better than all the rest of Zynganov's rivals. He is a very energetic person, he can act decisively. But he doesn't seem able to work out a

Mr Kholodkovsky said no-body would vote for Mr Yelt-sin out of love. Most of his support came from those who support came from those who
feared upheaval. "They already know what kind of a
creature Yeltsin is and what
his rule represents and will
be afraid that any changes
can only make things worse."
He added: "I believe his
health and behavioural problems are real. His health is
not good and his predeliction

not good and his predeliction for spirits is obvious. How-ever, Yeltsin is a man who is able to mobilise himself at the critical moment, and that is exactly what is happening

ATO enlargement is on track and it will happen, the US sec-retary of state, Warren Christopher, declared yesterday — but no decisions will be made until December. after the Russian and US presidential elections.

Responding to the wave of alarm which swept Russia's neighbours after a parliamentary vote in Moscow last week sought to rescind the dissolution of the old Soviet Union, Mr Christopher told the for-eign ministers of 12 central and eastern European countries meeting in in Prague: "We are determined to move forward."

Nato, he said, "has made a commitment to take in new members and it must not and

will not keep new democra-cies in the waiting room for-ever." And he vowed: "New allies will be full members of

But the Clinton administration is treading carefully fearful of the domestic impact of a defeat for Boris Yeltsin in Russia's election in June, and of the unravelling of US diplomacy around the world if Russia changes its broadly co-operative attitude towards the US.

The US is hoping that Mr Yeltsin will urge caution over Taiwan when he visits Betj-ing next month. America is also counting on Russian support to secure a comprehen-sive nuclear test ban treaty later this year, and depends strongly on Russian backing for its peace programme in

considerable effort into sup-porting the Yeltsin govern-ment in the run-up to the Russian election, pressing the international Monetary Fund to release another 39 billion

Bosnia and elsewhere. But, despite the strong tone of Mr Christopher's promise in Prague yesterday, there is no hint of any acceleration in the process of extending Nato membership to Poland, Hungary or the Czech Republic.

Nato's secretary-generals. Kavier Solana, began a serial of Moscow meetings yester-

of Moscow meetings yester-day designed to calm Russian fears of a renewed military

co-operation between Nato and Russia in peace efforts in Bosnia, the Russian defence minister, Pavel Grachev, replied: "So you have under-stood after all that, given our close co-operation, Nato should not expand." All Nato utterances are im-

portant in the run-up to Rus-sia's presidential election, in

'So you have understood after all that Nato

must not expand'

which Mr Yeltsin faces a strong challenge from the nationalist and communist

In an article in yesterday's zavisimaya Gazeta, promi-nent political analysts claim that falk of Nato expansion has already had an adverse effect in Russia.

"The planned process of the alliance's enlargement is being taken by the majority of Russian politicians not sim-ply as a threat, but as a collapse of partner relations with the West," they write. Mr Yaltsin, who will meet

Mr Solana today, warned last September that if the Western alliance absorbed former members of the Soviet bloc it could "ignite the flame of

to release another \$9 billion in credits for Russia. Mr Clinton will be in Moccow for a summit next month, and plans a further meeting with the Russian leader at the G7 summit in France.

The White House has denked that the Russians were secretly promised a long delay in any expansion of Nato, in return for co-operation in

German test for single currency

A state poll at the weekend will show whether voters buy Kohl's vision, writes lan Traynor in Bonn

the south German state of Baden-Württemberg may not know it, but when vote at the weekend to decide who will govern them for the next four years, they may also decide whether they will still have German marks in their pockets by the time of

single European currency, and the outcome of Sunday's regional ballot could reverberate well beyond Stuttgart, the state capital, and even be youd Germany

The Social Democratic Party, in opposition in Bonn but in coalition government in the state with Chancellor Relmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, is opposing economic and monetary union (EMU), portraying itself as the guardian of jobs at a time of soaring unemployment and deep anxiety about the future of Germany's generous wel-

SPD posters plastered all over Baden-Württemberg are calling for a delay in the 1999-scheduled launch of the single

currency to concentrate on creating jobs. The anti-EMU campaign is leader and economics minister in the outgoing coalition, but bears the hallmark of the new SPD national leader, Oskar Lafontaine. Mr Lafon-taine has broken with the Bonn consensus on the merits

the weekend that a single currency in 1999 could bring recession and greater mass unemployment throughout Europe. Pundits see Mr La-fontaine's campaign as a trial balloon for a bigger national onslaught on EMU, which is central to Mr Kohl's policies.

Should the SPD gain considerably on Sunday, Mr Lafontaine may conclude that

the single currency is due to be launched.

But there is more than EMU at stake on Sunday. Simultaneously, the northern and western states of Schles-wig-Holstein and Rhineland-Palatinate elect new state legislatures. The triple poll is being seen as a mid-term test of Mr Kohl's coalition and could determine the future of his small, struggling coalition

his small, struggling coalition partner, the Free Democrats. Nothing much is expected to change in Schleswig-Holstein or Rhineland-Palatinate, both governed by the Social Democrats. But the the Free Democrats are fighting for their political survival and will be struggling to muster. the next ballot.

For the first time in Germany an election is being fought on the issue of the ment. If it is knocked out of two of the three state parliaments, its participation in national government would be questioned.

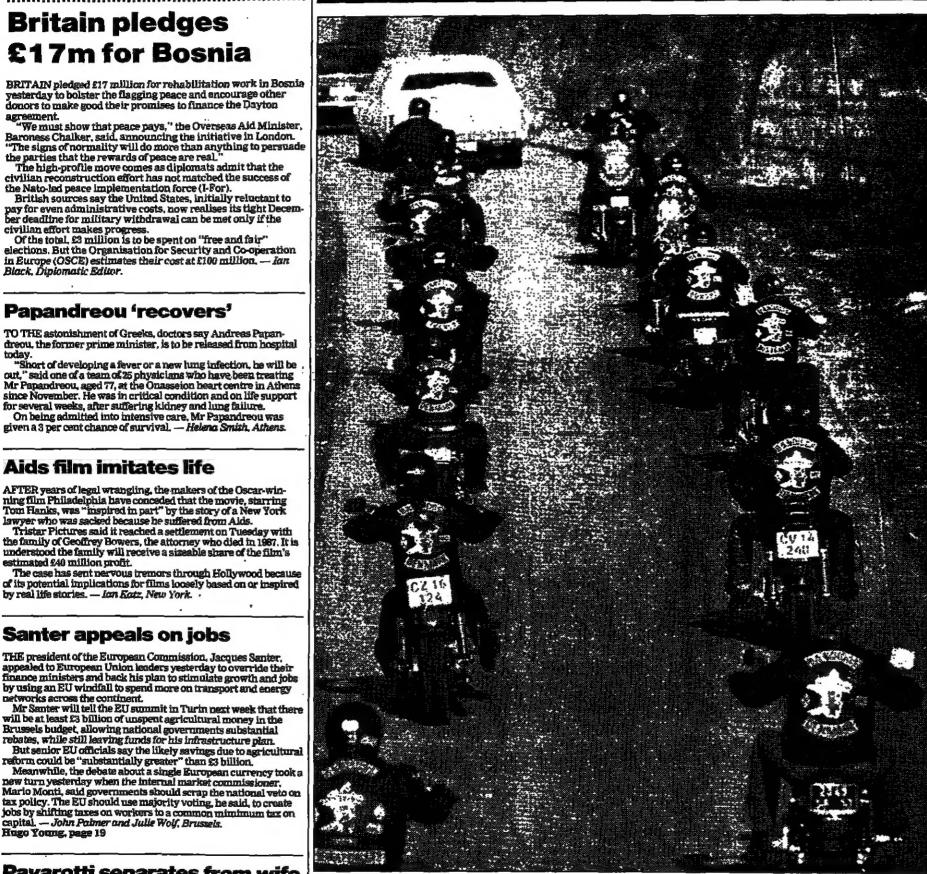
> In Stuttgart, the grand coalition appears to be on its last leas

Already Bonn is buzzing with speculation that a "grand coalition" of Chris-tian and Social Democrats may be the only way to forge the active consensus thought necessary to lead the country out of a worsening economic crisis. But in Stuttgart the "grand coalition" appears to be on its last legs. Both perheaded by Dieter Spoeri, the ties say they do not want to local Social Democratic continue the co-operation of

the past four years.
The Christian Democrats are certain to emerge as the stronger party, but neither of the big parties will be able to rule alone. The Free Democrats are the obvious partner for the Christian Democrats. but if they fail to muster the 5 per cent the door could open to a Social Democratic coalition with the Greens.

This, in turn, would strengthen the opposition majority in parliament's upper house in Bonn, though the Social Democrats would prob-ably be still slightly short of the two-thirds majority in the upper house which would en-able them to paralyse Mr Kohl's government by vetoing

Biker gang buries murdered leader and vows revenge



Santer appeals on jobs

THE president of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, appealed to European Union leaders yesterday to override their finance ministers and back his plan to stimulate growth and jobs by using an EU windfall to spend more on transport and energy networks across the continent.

Mr Santer will tell the EU summit in Turin next week that there

will be at least £3 billion of unspent agricultural money in the Brussels budget, allowing national governments substantial rebates, while still leaving funds for his infrastructure plan. But senior EU officials say the likely savings due to agricultural reform could be "substantially greater" than \$3 billion.

Meanwhile, the debate about a single European currency took a

new turn yesterday when the internal market commissioner.
Marlo Monti, said governments should scrap the national veto on
tax policy. The EU should use majority voting, he said, to create
jobs by shifting taxes on workers to a common mimimum tax on capital. — John Palmer and Julie Wolf, Brussels. Hugo Young, page 19

Pavarotti separates from wife

THE opera superstar Luciano Pavarotti and his wife Adua announced their separation yesterday after 35 years of marriage, just weeks after the tenor admitted to an affair with his 25-yearold secretary.

The brief statement, issued through Mrs Pavarotti's lawyer,

said they chose to publicise the separation because of the "social obligations that arise from their celebrity status". He said they had not yet begun formal divorce proceedings. — Reuter, Rome.

cycle fanatics from around the world on the way to yesterday's funeral

EATHER-CLAD motor- | 10 days ago by their rivals.

around the world on the way to yesterday's funeral in the sleepy Danish town of Stenloese to the funeral of the local leader of the Bandidos motorcycle gang. Uffe Larsen, gunned down

ange and yellow colours. Armed police flooded the town, but there was no trouble.

Among the mourners were men in bandages and one on crutches, survivors of the March 10 shooting at Copenhagen airport. One they'll pay."—Reuter.

wore a bullet-proof vest. Bandidos say that the motive for the attack was their rivals' desire to stay the top Scandinavian motorcycle

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The programme commences with a flight from London Gatwick to San Jose, before transferring to the Pacific enast. For our 7-night stay we have arranged accommodation at the 4-star Hotel Tamarinuo Diria on Tamarindo Beach on the Nicoya Peninsula, which is ideal for a relaxing stay and as a base from which to explore the national parks and Arenal volcano.

Since the demand for the few remaining places is anticipated to be high, it is essential that telephone reservations are made to avoid disappointment.

THE TAMARINDO HOTEL

beaches on the Nicoya Peninsula, the hotel has been built—the that ched al frescu restaurant on three floors, each of its fill air-conditioned rooms has and har offer good food in delightful a spacious holdomy looking on to the tree tops. The shade surrounding tropical gardens are heautifully landscaped and appointed ming pool.



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Berlusconi's party manager accused of bribing judges

THE leader of the Italian right, Silvio Berlusconi, embarked on a general election campaign yesterday, weighed down by fresh accu-sations that the man who runs his party systematically bribed Roman judges.

One of Mr Berlusconi's MPs said that Cesare Previti, chief organiser of the billionaire's Forza Italia (Come On, Italy) movement, had been "in a position to fix the rulings of the court of cassation" (Italy's highest court). Michele Caccavale, who was dropped as a candidate at next month's election, made his accusa tions in an interview with a

leftwing radio station. Further claims were made

newspaper La Repubblica. A society aristocrat whose evidence has already put one senior judge behind bars was quoted as naming seven others she said had received gifts and money from Mr

said Mr Previti, who is also Mr Berlusconi's lawyer in Rome, used to keep a special account for suborning judges. Her claims were denied yesterday by Mr Previti and the judges named. Judge Renato Squillante,

who was taken into custody last week on the strength of Ms Ariosto's deposition, was reported to have begun a hunger strike to secure his

in a statement to prosecutors the bribes came in the form of leaked to the Rome daily jewellery for judges' wives. In 1998, only months before

John Hooper in Rome

Previti. Countesa Stefania Ariosto

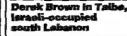
of a common currency since seizing the party leadership last November. He told a campaign rally at

The countess was reported fontaine may conclude that to have claimed that many of the has hit on a dream theme

Mstopher Mises Mer Nato

S Lebanon erupts as suicide attack kills soldier Hizbullah bomber

blasts Israeli patrol



fighting erupted in south Lebanon yesterday after an Israeli patrol in the occupation zone was blasted by a roadside bomb. One soldier died and five were wounded.

The Islamist guerrilla movement Hizbullah claimed himself up in the attack. A source in the United Nations peacekeeping force, Unifil, said early indications were of a suicide bombing. Yesterday's death blast fol-lowed a brief lull in south

Lebanon's ugly war of attri-tion, which has claimed many hundreds of lives — including 157 Israeli trops — since the zone was established in June 1985. But it also came at a time of growing tension in the region. Lebanese news bulletins

and newspapers have been giving shrill warnings of imminent Israeli action against the Hizbullah and other guerrillas.

This month alone there have been 60 attacks on Israeli forces and Israel's client militia, the so-called South Lebanese Army. In February there were 90 attacks, the most ever recorded by Unifil

in a single month.

Five Israeli soldiers have been killed and 23 wounded this month. What is more worrying for Israeli com-manders is that the Hizbullah's tactics have become more sophisticated.

Last week four soldiers of the elite Golani Brigade were killed by a roadside bomb, detonated as they chased

In Israel there has been intense speculation about a retaliatory strike. On Monday operation.
An additional cause of ten-

sion has been Israel's block-ade of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, although some travel restrictions have been eased.

Some of the 500 Islamists arrested are suspected of having links with the recent suicide bombings in Israel, which element 62 lives The

which claimed 62 lives. The government has said it will expel some of the men picked up, prompting speculation of another mass deportation to south Lebanon. in 1992 Israel transported

more than 400 Islamists into Lebanon and dumped them

'Let's get back to basics. Who in this conflict is in the wrong country?'

ment refused to let them move any further, and they remained for a year on a bleak hillside in no man's

be used as a human refuse beap. Lebanese soldiers have hastily built earth barriers across some roads on their side of the zone.

South Lebanon is, at the best of times, a weird and eerie place. On Tuesday, less than 24 hours before the latest bombing, this reporter spent several hours with Unifil touring some of the most bloodled terrain in the region. There is, at first glance, no hint of conflict in the land-

scape of rocky slopes and ter-raced fields of clive groves

tering the "security zone", and almond trees. Yet the possibly in preparation for an eigns of war are all around. signs of war are all around. Whole villages have been obliterated by Israeli explosives, to prevent their use for ambush. Roads are studded with Unifil checkpoints and

security gates. The zone's civilian popula-tion is about 200,000. In 1985, before the Israelis came, it was more than three times that figure. The depopulation shows in the unworked fields, the somnoient quiet of the vil-lages, and the virtual absence of young men of military age.

There are young men, but many of them serve with the SLA, or in the less visible ranks of the Hizbullah or the Amal militia. Not infrequently, members of the same family fight on different sides.

In Table, 500 yards or so from the site of yesterday's blast, soldiers of the Finnish battalion (Finbatt), which straddles the border of the zone, are overlooked by both Israeli and SLA positions, which means they are often uncomfortably close to the firing line. Which is exactly where they are supposed to

civilian people here, their houses, their olive trees and of course the human beings. That is enough for me. If soldiers kill each other, so what? Now the Lebanese government is saying again that it the affable company comwill not allow its territory to mander in Talbe, Major

Markku Haapasalo.
But Maj Haapasalo admitted that his tiny force does from time to time find itself protecting armed as well as marmed civilians.

"We try to get them to move away from the villages when they fire.
"Yes, they do sometimes

fire from the villages. But that is also where they live Another Unifil official broke in: "Let's get back to basics. Who [in this conflict]



I accuse . . . A woman supporter of the Nation of Islam is led from a congressional hearing on Louis Farrakhan's tour

US condemns Farrakhan 'terror tour'

Jonathan Freedland

gress is about to crack down on Louis Farrak-Islam, whose organisation of the Million Man March last year made him the de facto leader of black America.

A coalition of Republicans and Democrats will vote next week to condemn Mr Farrakhan for a world tour last month which included stops in Iran, Iraq and Libya and

tween Nation of Islam activists and congressional staff. Mr Farrakhan also faces legal

action by the government.
The Clinton administration is considering prosecuting the cieric - widely con-demned as a black supremacist and anti-Semite — for making unauthorised visits to countries classifled by the US as sponsors of international terrorism.

he was guilty of "cavorting" with the dictators of countries with which the US has severed relations. If pros-ecuted, he would face a heavy

Capitol Hill, which descended into a brawl on Tuesday between Nation of Islam activists and congressional staff.

Mr Farrakhan also faces legal chairman of the House intervition. national relations subcommit tee which held hearings on Mr Farrakhan's "terror tour".

Struggling to be heard above the heckling of several hundred Nation of Islam sup-porters, the Republican Peter King called Mr Farrakhan a "vicious racist and hate-monger, as well as a national

security threat".

The ire of Congress was stirred most by Mr Farrakhan's acceptance of a pledge from Libya for \$1 billion (\$650 million) in aid, and his

reported comment to an Iran-ian news agency: "God will Farrakhan had said he would not give Japan or Europe the honour of bringing down the United States; this is an honour God will bestow upon Muslims.

Congress now seems ready to tighten the squeeze on the Nation of Islam. Even before the trip, the authorities had moved to cancel federal contracts hiring the Nation's security unit — the so-called Fruit of Islam — to protect mainly black inner-city housing estates.

As the hearing began, activists chanting "Hands off Farrakhan!" stormed the platform to protest that their leader had Farrakhan had said he would have welcomed a "showdown" with the government. If called, he would have exposed Con-gress as a puppet of the Israeli parliament.

Protestors later chased several committee members out of the hearing room, leading to a brawl in the corridors. Two were arrested for disruption of Congress.

Meanwhile Jonetta Rose

Barras, a leading black activist, accused Mr Farrakhan of squandering both the money and the political capital raised by the Million Man March, which is still \$150,000

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Kenyan plea for aid faces rising donor scepticism

HE Kenyan government is expected to plead for increased aid to its growing economy, and to attempt to deflect criticism of continuing political repression, when it meets donor countries in Paris today.

The annual meeting brings together senior Kenyan ministers, representatives of multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and bilateral donors, including Brit-

ain and Germany. Divisions, have emerged between countries such as Britain, which have heavy investments in Renya and retain strong historical links, and other donors, particularly in Scandingvia, which say pressure to improve human rights

must be stepped up.
"The political situation is still not what we would call satisfactory," said one Scandinavian diplomat in Nairobi. "We'll be carrying out a major evaluation of our aid budget to Kenya after the next elections."

Some donors are likely to opposition MPs and the dis-ruption of meetings and

They will also question the lack of judicial independence — evidenced by the imprisonment last year of the dissident Koigi wa

Kenya is expected to cite its economic growth rate —
more than 5 per cent a year
— and its achievement of
single-digit inflation.

Robert Shaw, a spokes-man for the Safina party, led by the white conserva-tionist Richard Leakey, said: "The fact that the government has found itself unable to register new opposi-tion parties like ours shows that, fundamentally, nothing much has changed."

The government's refusal to register new parties will be raised. Also on the agenda will be President Moi's unbudgeted expenditure on a £30 million presi-dential jet.

Winnie loses claim for cash

INNIE MANDELA failed to put in an appearance at a hearing to decide a financial settlement in her divorce proceedings yesterday, losing by de-fault any legal claim on the estate of the South African

president.

Nelson Mandela said in a statement later: "I have instructed my legal representative to negotiate an ex-gratia payment to her, and the waiver of the costs granted by the court in my favour." He added: "I am glad that

the case is over and regret that my ex-wife could not bring herself to negotiate an amicable settlement. It would have saved us both and our children much pain . . I hope and trust that she will now be prepared to be reasonable. It an only be to her benefit."

Mrs Mandela said she might

go to the higher constitutional court to get what she called a
"fair hearing". She said she
was taking legal advice.
The hearing on the financial settlement was separated

from the divorce action by Judge Frikkie Eloff on Monday. But when the matter resumed in the Rand supreme court yesterday morning there was no sign of Mrs Mandela, or her lawyers. Counsel for the president, Wim Trengove, asked for the dismissal of the claim and costs. of the claim and costs, which

of the trainf and costs, which were granted.

On Tuesday Judge Eloff granted a decree of divorce to Mr Mandela, on the grounds of the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage and Mrs Mandela's adultery with

young lawyer.
Mrs Mandela claimed half of her husband's estate and demanded details of his financial assets. Local newspapers have valued the estate at nearly £7 million, but they

raggerate.
Papers before the court have shown that he has given large sums of money to Mrs Mandela and their children since his release from prison

He contributed more than \$100,000 towards the cost of "undermines everything our the lavish mansion she had marriage was all about".

for her defence on kidnapping charges in the trial in 1991 linked to the murder of a 14-year-old township activist, Stomple Seipei. Mr Mandela spent 2170,000 on houses and cars for their two daughters and the schooling of his

grandchildren.
The public humiliation of Mrs Mandela in the supreme court raises questions about her political survival. There are few commentators who would predict an end to her role in public life, having seen her raise herself from dead on too many occasions

n the past.

But the disclosure by the hugely popular president of her callous treatment of him after his release from prison— "I was the loneliest man,"

Two of her bodyguards were charged yesterday with assault

he told Judge Eloff - mus rule out any return to office in a Mandela government and could cost her the leadership could cost her the leadership of the ANC Women's League. Her band of intensely loyal supporters in the ANC will probably be sufficiently numerous to guarantee her a parliamentary seat under the party list system which operates in South Africa.

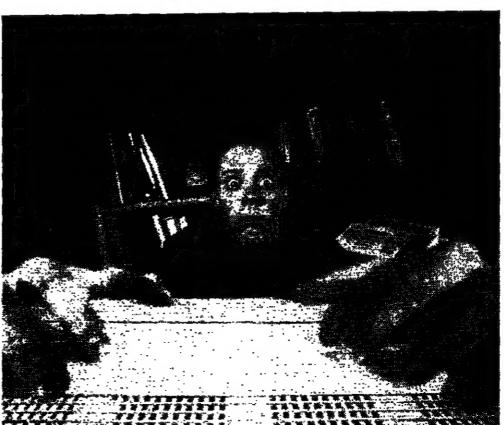
But the divorce is unlikely

But the divorce is unlikely to end the scandal surround ing her. Mr Mandela said in his testimony that he could disclose "more serious" dirty linen than the single act of adultery cited. Only yesterday her name featured in the criminal courts yet again, when two of her bodyguards were charged with assault and attempted murder before a Soweto magistrate.

Mrs Mandela, who has recently started calling her-self "Madikizela-Mandela", issued a statement yesterday describing her defeat in the divorce action as a "travesty of justice", adding that it

Countless politicians drone on about how divorce is tearing apart the fabric of society. Tearing apart the fabric of society presumably should be left to professionals like them, not done routinely by households up and down the country.

Suzanne Moore G2 page 7



You've got insurance if

Johnny crashes your car.

But what if he

crashes your hard drive?

The Guardian

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Bitter price of short cuts

We are all guilty about beef: farmers most of all

way for a minister to demonstrate his faith in the safety of British beef. But how much of a health risk was it? A lot less in 1990 than it would have been in 1999 before the ban on beef offal, used until then in sausages, pies and burgers, was banned. The biggest threat which mad cow poses is not to people who eat beef now — although scientists remain divided — but to people who ate infected beef products before the 1989 infected beef products before the 1989 controls were introduced. We still do not know whether mad cow disease (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE) can be transmitted to man but a worrying new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), which could be linked with BSE was disclosed by ministers yesterday. New research into 10 people who died from CJD by a committee of specialists advising ministers concluded that "the most likely explanation at present is that these cases are linked to exposure to BSE before the introduction of the specified bovine offal ban in 1989."

No one can criticise the promptness with which ministers moved on the latest research. Two ministers - health and agriculture - made separate statements to the Commons and announced strict new rules: all carcasses from cattle over 30 months to be deboned in specially licensed plants supervised by the Meat Hygiene Service to ensure all trimmings are kept out of the food chain; a ban on the use of all meat and bonemeal in feed for farm animals; and a crash £4.5 million research programme into possible links between BSE and its human form, CJD. The reason why this first established link between BSE and CJD is being taken so seriously is because of a potential doomsday scenario. With an incubation

WILL John Selwyn Gummer live to period of up to 30 years, people who ate regret stuffing a beefourger into his infected meat in the late 1980s may not daughter's mouth? Politically, he pre- show signs of the disease until way into sumably already does. It was an asinine the millennium but the numbers then way for a minister to demonstrate his could be huge: all suffering, like the

> has no BSE, has a higher CJD death rate than Britain. The committee of experts does not want a beef ban. The chief medical officer says it is safe to eat beef, but believes the new evidence is "cause for serious concern".

A new beef scare seems inevitable.
That is a pity for the farmers but good news for the food chain. Public scares seem to be the only thing that galvanise ministers in this field. The most probable cause of road earth discrete is support ble cause of mad cow disease is suspect cattle food which includes offal from scraple-infected sheep. Mad sheep disease existed for over 200 years without spreading to cattle until the relatively recent - and utterly deplorable - innovation of feeding sheep scraps to cows. Animal husbandry is expensive: it takes 7lbs of vegetables to make 1lb of beef protein. But the price of short cuts could not have been better illustrated. Cows are herbivores but have been fed chicken litter, pig offal and, until July, 1988, infected sheep remains. Yesterday's ban on all meat and bonemeal feed for animals comes far too late. The entire food chain philosophy is wrong: the search for a quick fix. Not all fault can be placed on the farmer — producers, processors, distributors, retailers, consumers are all involved - but it starts behind the farm gate. Farming became far too intensive: and nature

A moment of truth for India

The election could set the nation's politics on a new course

letter affair. Not so long ago the news would have been greeted with headlines about the world's largest democracy: there would have been comparisons with China and allusions to India's vital international role. Since the cold shifted, leaving the sub-continent in something of a geo-political limbo. India is still, with 590 million voters, the biggest country to operate a formal impressive fact. But confidence in the system has declined over many years long before the latest corruption scandal. The "hawala" bombshell, in which more than a hundred senior politicians have been accused of accepting illegally laundered money, certainly puts India back on the map. No one can now complain that this will be an election without issues.

It is not the first time that scandals of this type have shaken India. The Bofors gun deal ticked away for three years before the powder caught fire. But this mega-package of corruption has acquired a quite different sort of critical mass. The question for late April and May is whether the sleaze revelations will submerge the credibility of Indian democracy, or impel a new process of cleansing and rejuvenation.

On the credit side is the actual emergence of the affair. The sudden move by the Criminal Bureau of Investigation to | mark election which could also set the "charge-sheet" leading politicians was nation's politics upon a new course.

WHEN INDIA SETS the date of its | first seen as a tactical ploy by Prime national election, it ought to be a red | Minister P V Narasimha Rao to wrongfoot the opposition, and particularly the Hindu nationalist Bharativa Janata Party (BJP). But Mr Rao's own Congress party has been tarnished badly. the real initiative came from the Supreme Court which instructed the CBI war ended the centre of gravity has to get on with the job. In its everyday work, this body is already far more accessible to the public than the highest judiciary anywhere else including the US. Its 23 judges have become a virtual democratic system: that should be an substitute for correct or inefficient state administrations. The Indian press does not come badly out of the affair either. Though it was slow to respond, a small number of determined journalists refused to let go and there is now a

more vigorous investigative effort. Much will now depend upon whether the leftwing parties — untainted by corruption — and other non-BJP opposition parties can become an effective third force which would then, according to most predictions, hold the balance in a new Lok Sabha. One way or another, this election will be seen as a moment of truth throughout almost all of India. The exception is Kashmir where every such contest will be an irrelevance until the region's own crisis receives radical attention. The Indian economy is already in a state of confused transition and the Prime Minister's "middle way" for it remains undefined. Now India faces a bench-

We are not at all amused

Our royals can't hold a light to Florence Nightingale

MARCH is turning into a bad month for | tutes. William Morris turns out to have Florence Nightingale. A bad month in a been a bad-tempered hysteric. W G bad century. The eminent Victorian's reputation took a direct hit from Lytton Strachey in 1918 and her stock has been sliding gently downhill ever since. But this month has been particularly damaging. First a Crimean soldier's letter came to light that was anything but complimentary about the Lady with the Lamp. Now a letter of her own reveals that the Lady enjoyed seances with a Swedish masseur and took libido-sup-

pressing bromides well into her 60s. Some will console themselves that at least this was all very different from the home life of our own dear Queen. And yet who can really say? The history of isn't like that. We live in an age when Victorian England seems littered with the shattered remains of fallen idols with feet of clay. Even Queen Victoria | Florence Nightingale spent some of her is no longer above suspicion. Then

Grace was a cheat. Any number of supposedly respectable people seem to have been plausible candidates for Jack the Ripper. And if even a fraction of the world described by Walter in My Secret Life is true then sexual intercourse began not in 1963 but in prodigious abundance at least a century earlier.

Once upon a time history consisted of ripping yarns about British heroes. Many Conservatives wish it still did. They would like to put Dr Livingstone, Gordon of Khartoum, Florence Nightingale, Margaret Thatcher and the rest back on their pedestals. But history fairy-tale princesses go on television to admit they slept with Guards officers. If later life doped up to the eyeballs, then there was Dickens and his love child. that doesn't sully her reputation. It



Letters to the Editor

John Redwood Pulped

wives, and now we have none other than John Redwood MP singing the praises of the Lightning Seeds and Blur (There's Always England.

748-21-3-96

March 20).

British pop music has become so sage. Even I and my friends have found ourselves getting all nostalgic about the 1960s lately, even though none of us was born until the mid-1970s. At least in the 60s pop music had a sense of itself being separate from, and opposed to, Britain's stuffy establishment.

But Redwood's article was not about pop music at all. In-stead he was trying to con-vince British youth that Brit-ain is still a major world player. Apparently the success of a few second-rate Britopo bands proves that "there is still a lively cultural heart ticking away in the UK". And music but we also win wars! We won in the Falklands, "all on our own"; then we helped America win in the Gulf. See, Britain is still a major

power in the world. Our big-brave army massacres deenceless women and children in Iraq and Beatle-wannabees Oasis have managed to crawl to number four in the US album charts. Gee, I'm so proud to be British. Burnt Oak, Edgware,

OHN REDWOOD'S lauding of Brition as reflecting the vitality and distinctiveness of British (or English?) cultural identity is at best naive, at worst pernicious. The likes of Blur and Oasis do not advance an expansive and contemporary notion of cul-tural identity. Britpop is, for the most part, retrospective, appealing to the bygone age of the Beatles, the Stones and the Small Faces. One suspects that this is exactly its appeal to Redwood, for whom the village cricket green and pretty brick buildings encapsulate

what was and continues to be

central to our identity as a nation. This rather simple-

ture has little bearing on con-temporary realities.

The most innovative and in-fluential brands of pop music since the 1960s have been punk, acid house, techno and jungle. All have been central to the ways in which young people have expressed them-selves culturally as British. They are all primarily urban They are all primarily urban cultures, far removed from the green and pleasant land. Each is expressive of a reality over which Redwood and his government have presided for so long. Rohit Lekhi.

Circular Road

T IS a pity John Redwood ididn't share his (researcher's?) knowledge about the recent re-formation of the Sex Pistols, the epitome of 1970s "Britpop". It would have been marvellous to read Redwood's lyrical analysis of the prophetic Anarchy In The UK. Even better if he were to give us his views on the bank-ruptcy of a political system which exists via the patronage of the monarchy and through which power is exercised on behalf of the few against the

many, expertly depicted in God Save the Queen. I was, up until his article, quite ambivalent about the return of the Sex Pistols; but now I can't wait.

4 Robin Hood Avenue, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Notts NG21 9LG.

E concludes by claiming Handel's Water Music as English Jollification". Handel was born in Germany and whilst living in Britain com-

IRST we had the return minded view of British culposed the Water Music for a first of the Sex Pistols, complete with pot-bellies and temporary realities.

not so much English but Ger-man jollification. How very pro-European, Mr Redwood. Ronald B Voce. Department of History and Welsh History. UCW Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

EDWOOD'S admission to being a Barron Knights fan was a cynical ploy to wangle himself back into the Cabi-net as Heritage Minister. Gareth Roberts. 22b Woolwich Road. London SE10 OJU.

"double entendre message to us Tories" in the Lightning Seeds' lyrics. I spotted one too: "The world is full of fools who never get it right." Stuart Nathan. 34, Pembroke Road, Ilford, Essex IG3 8PH.

BLAIR'S debut hit was time on his hands, Mr Redwood had evidently been having a little too much fun of late. Adrian Lovett. 74 Wicor Mill Lane, Hants PO169EL

RESUMABLY the pre-ferred Oasis songs of other Tories include Defi-nitely Maybe (John Major), Cigarettes and Alcohol (Ken Clarke), Married With Children (Stephen Norris), Slide Away (Ken Baker), Cast No Shadow (Nicholas Soames), Live Forever (Edward Heath), Roll With It (Alan Duncan) . . .

Bob Shed. 67 Brynian Road. Gwynedd LL30 2EZ



A Flick back

YOU say that, among others, I was involved in Oxford University's negotiations connected with the ac-ceptance of Mr Gert-Rudolph Flick's gift, the creation of the Chair, etc (Shame behind the name, March 13).

This is not the case. My only connection with the Chair was that I was consulted about the field of knowledge to which the Chair was to be devoted. Presum-ably as a result of this I was appointed by the university to the Board of Electors to the Professorship, and we made what seems to me to be an excellent appointment.

My point is that I had noth-

ing to do with the obtaining of the gift or the negotiations dent measure, and reflects which led to its acceptance. I our safety-first approach. Alwas not consulted about this

at any stage.

I should be grateful if you would correct the impression that you gave, that I was in accept the gift. Sir Isaiah Berlin. Headington House, Old High Street. Oxford OX3 9HU.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171-837 4530 or posted to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more

Heysham: a nuclear reaction

no question of it arising (New fears on design of reactors, March 19). The refuelling safety case accepts that stops and snags can happen. In this event, the reactor will automatically shut itself down as it did at Hevsham 2. In this snagged some three to four metres above the reactor core, and during the entire process of removal and replacement the cooling sys

tems continued to work. The decision to stop on-load refuelling at both stations was taken by Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear as a pruthough our investigation is not completed, early indications are that this is a "one-

Once again we see the use off" situation — and the fact that we have already remeltdown" when there was fuelled over 150 stringers at fuelled over 150 stringers at Hevsham 2 without difficulty reactor was returned safely to power with the agreement of the regulator, Nuclear Installations inspectorate, and has operated safely at full power since. Hinkley Point B and Hunterston are of a different design and continue to refuel on-load without diffuculty.

You claim that the details of the fuelling problem at Hey-sham "have been kept secret". Not so. In our fortnightly station newsletters progress on return to power of Reactor 8 was consistently reported Sir Noel Davies.

Chairman, Nuclear Electric plc. 123 Pall Mall.

some way one of those who persuaded the university to Another view of the graffiti war

ILARY LAW and Nicola and jobs. That's down to Tory
Watson (Letters, March policies, But Sheffield is also cursed by the debts hung 20) want to blame Simon Sunderland for all the problems of Sheffield's graffiti. Yes there is a lot in Sheffield. Much is grim and offensive. But Simon's work was colourful and creative and did not threaten anyone except those architects and councillors who believe that everything on our estates should be dull and drab and uniform. Shef-

round its neck for the world student games flasco and the ill-conceived super tram pro-ject. National and local policies have created a huge layer with sense and dignity. Five years for Simon's graffiti says that the victims are to blame others.

A good man is indeed hard to find. So, who cares?

towards the "caring" professions is because they tend to Jayne Egerton, be badly paid and low status 22 Speidhurst Ros (A good man is hard to find, Society, March 20). Eugen Hockenjos will, how-

ever, find a disproportionate number of men in manage-ment in both social services as well as education. Men's declining job prospects may well mean more men will consider working with children in the future. But this presents us with dilemmas which Hocken-

male childcare workers in local authorities as well as the private sector. We know that a significant minority of those men who gravitate towards work with children are abusers. James Hamilton's persistent and obsessive attempts to carry on running his "boys' clubs" are just one example of

this phenomenon. The vast majority of child sex offences, in and outside the home, don't result in criminal convictions. So checks on previous convictions can't be relied on to weed out potential

Like many women, I'd like to see more men involved in childcare. In the seventies this seemed an unproblematic fem-inist desire. But that was before we'd recognised the prevalence of child sex abuse. We now know too much to return to that earlier, simple opti-

THE obvious reason why care, adequate supervision is men have not gravitated vital if we're to ensure the safety of children. London E9 TEH.

WHY is a good man hard to find? It's hardly that women freeze them out with jokes, banter and other forms of harassment. Equal opportunities for men are not the issue — the men who do choose to enter caring professions still scale the promotion with dilemmas which Hocken by said the production with dilemmas which Hocken by said the production of the production of

men off. Sure, there should be no more reason for women to accept lower pay than men, but so long as they do, occupa-tions will tend to be staffed by Irene Bruegel. South Bank University.

Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JZ

N caring professions, men often face the same situations as women in jobs where they are very much in the minority: you often find yourself excluded from the informal social networks at work. You also find out how subtle and unconscious sexual harrass-ment can be More equal representation of men and women across the professions will not occur until we all start to change society's attitudes and expectations. mism. If more men are to be Brockholes View, actively recruited into child-

N what does Peter Hain base the view that the ex-

isting single-member constituencies are still valued by

voters (Letters, March 2017

Great swathes of voters are not represented by their own

MP and do not feel he rusu-

ally) would sympathetically take up any problem they might have. This would not

Planting an alternative

THE Plant Commission did not recommend the Alternative Vote (Hugo Young's Commentary, March 19). It recommended the Supplementary Vote. The Supplementary Vote, which I designed in 1989, removes perverse results which some perverse results which some-times occur under the Alter-native Vote. Under the latter, t is possible for first-count. third-place candidates to win. Under the Supplementary Vote, only those placed first or second on the first count can win.

The Supplementary Vote provides for greater propor-tionality than the present system. Nevertheless, some people recommend that the Supplementary Vote could be topped up with electoral lists. I have an open mind. Dale Campbell-Savours MP. House of Commons,

London SWIA OAA

Isn't it rather the MPs who value the present system because it gives them an exclusive territory, and many of them would lose their jobs for life in safe seats under a truly proportional system"

That is why the people should choose the system

change under AV.

they want in a referendum, as occurred in New Zealand. LR Armstrong. Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform.

18 Stanley Avenue, Baffins, Portsmouth PO3 6PN.

A Country Diary

seem desolate at this time of the year the general scenery is dramatic as the area is Beinn Dearg and An Teallach all with extensive snow fields. A dead mountain hare in white winter coat was a road casualty and quite a surprise. In eastern parts of the Highlands, mountain hares are, in parts, very common but in the west they are few and far between, partly be-cause of the wet conditions and higher rainfall. So the chances of such a road casualty on the Dirrie More was of victims who try to exist | very low although it is admittedly a fast road. Because there are more mountain hares in the east, golden eafor the mess created by gles there stand much more

DIRRIE MORE: On a cloud- | either turf the younger chick less day I drove over this vast out of the nest or eat its tract of open moorland and sibling. Not far from the dead lochs lying in Wester Ross between Ullapool and Garve.
Although the moorland may fast-flowing burn. There is a small bothie m one corner and the field is so bright green that even in the sumbrooded over by the hills of mer it still stands out from Ben Wyvis, the Fannichs, the surrounding mourland. the surrounding moorland. Like many other parts of the Highlands the grassland looks as if it has been "improved" by fertilisers but I sometimes wonder if this is the case. There used to be an old drove road over the moorland along which small black cattle would have been driven down from Sutherland - down to the first of the larger trysts at Muir of Ord. Could the bright green grassland have nothing to do with artificial fertilisers? Could it have been enriched by cattle droppings when the area was used as an overnight stop where the cattic rested and fed before conchance of rearing two chicks tinuing their long journey

Diary

Joanna Coles

HERE was much to recommend the gentle technique of Martin Bashir in his interview with the Queen of Hearts. However, I hear Diana may be planning a rather more aggressive sequel. She has been lunching my obses-sively shy friend the director Nick Broomfield — who I am assured appears so frequently in his own films only with the greatest of reluctance — with a view to making a film together. Having previously focused on such endearing subjects as Eugene Terreblanche and the Hollywood Madam herself, Heidi Fleiss, Nick's myopic eye for detail is not in doubt. I am sure Diana: Kensington Madam will be less fly-on-the-wall than fly-in-the-ointment. "She is." Broomfield has been murmuring softly, "simp

EANWHILE my friend Mandy Mandy Mandelson looks only upward and onward. Sy moned to see Tony Blat this week, one of Labo's more popular shadow in-isters rapped upon the ader's door at the appoind hour, "Come!" resout the reply. And in streethe shadow minister onlo discover Blair was n where to be seen, wie Mandy sat happily sing-ing his legs from thead-

FTER a lengy and expensive bile for exclusive sealisation rights, the Diy has finally secured it look of finally secured it look of the Month: Anthy Per-kins, A Haunted fe, by Ronnie Bergan, flay's ex-tract sees Tony fining in Cardiff where nine would have known abo his pen-chant for cannes but for an unfortunate inci-dence. Over to mald: dence. Over to mald: "Tony, who harrown the cannabis at hijos Angeles home, thoughp avoid cus-toms by postifit to the hotel in Card where he

was due to st. But in a severe case ofistiming. or just the efficacy of the postal servid surely the former, the chage arrived five as before he did." Alas f/Tony, there just happen to be anaying at the hotel also to the name of Perkins wipromptly
opened theackage. Puzzled, he paed it on to the
local policwho were
more than appy to join the welcomirparty when Tony evenally arrived. Tomorro Ronald gives a lengthy elanation apropos his dision to refer to Mr Perks as Tony" throught the book, even though met him but once and briy".

WAjelighted to see my you friend Amy Jen-kin riting so passionately if Independent yes-terdahmy, who is only 29, havritten the screen-play if This Life, a new serien BBC TV, and eagerlen bot 1v. and 2s gerly counted just how diffict it was to get her ideaccepted when she dund her initial career in land embarked on wrig for a living. Still, she ged fellow writers, "Timoral of the story is dorgive up; if you have talit, you will, with perse-vence, get there in the en' Of course you will. A hay coincidence then to fij her writing on the sie page as her stepnther Polly Toynbee and, n more coincidentally. # old stomping ground of r late father, the colum-st Peter Jenkins.

ARGON alert: The latest BBC management memo (where else?) soints out that staff may nave noticed new signs in the corridors at TV Centre. The memo is headed: "Improving Directional

ONGRATULATIONS to British Airways which celebrated its inaugural flight from Harre to Gatwick on Sunday. Indeed, the new route was deemed so exciting that an entire planeful of Harare journalists for sook the thrill of reporting Robert Mugabe's nail-biting presidential campaign, to a mire the wonders of Gat-ters. Shame then that the plane was diverted to Glas-gow. No matter, said BA, we'll fly you to Heathrow. Alas the shuttle was already overbooked. The backs eventually arrived eight hours later than scheduled — by train.



Heads in clouds of poison

:ommentary lugo **foung**

■HO are judges? What is a court?
Upholder of the legal order, arbiter of disputes within it, punisher of those who break its laws, bulwark against wreck-ers who want to change the rules they don't happen to agree with. Perhaps espe-cially the last. That's where judges, appointed for the rest of their active lives, come up against the transient agents of the state, otherwise known as politicians. Judges defend the rule of law against those who favour the rule of men,

preferably themselves. The Government, the pious preacher of its attachment to law and order, has an increas ing problem with judges. At home and abroad, British pol-iticians are fighting courts more resentfully than they have ever done before. Judges are making some inconve nient decisions, so ministers want to alter the nature of the monly understood. The most

prominent is Michael Howard. He wants to take a tranche of power away from judges, transferring to officials under his supervision the decision on prison sen-tences for multiple rapists and other men of violence With such candour as only the de-sensitised autocrat could muster, he deems judges no longer qualified to sentence these serious criminals. He says so with a pitying but unapologetic air, as if relieving the bench of the consequences of its own incompetation.

tence. Without a tremor of alarm, he glides into the terri-

tory, commonplace in the old Soviet Union, of administra-

Such supplanting of the court is bad enough. It spits on what used to be called the legal system. But the mind-set reaches wider. It's becoming a kind of norm, among Conservative politicians especially. This will be appeared. cially. This will be apparent in today's Commons debate on the Europe white paper, when attacks on the European Court of Justice are likely to dominate the speeches coming from the Euro-phobic wing. The iniquities of the ECJ are the poison of the meanth. Their registriction of the month. Their recitation is more subversive than the noxious fumes that envelop

Kenneth Clarke, the single

currency, or whatever other voguish mantra expresses the

rage of the haters from week

to week. It also suggests a profound and reckless ignorance. Perhaps these people are ac tually going crazy.
They talk of the European

Court as if it were an optional extra in the Europe system. The time has come, some solemnly declare, for its rulings to be disobeyed. Others sug-gest Britain should leave it altogether: simply up sticks and quit the bench, though not, apparently, quitting the juris-diction. They've come to regard the ECJ with the same a-historical triviality as people who think the Prince of Wales should not succeed to the Throne on the grounds that he is no longer popular. Just because it finds that Spanish fishermen have been damaged by an illegal British decision to exclude them from British waters, the Court is consigned by bien pensant sceptics, whose zeal exceeds their education, to the same category of disposable enemies as Jacques Delors.

The European Union, how ever, is a legal order, and like every legal order it needs an adjudicating body to settle disputes and develop law. Every member signed up to the Court when they joined the Union. So obvious was its necessity, and so inevitable the supra-national character of the rulings it would be called upon to make, that, in the days when sanity prevailed, nobody questioned

There were always doubts about fish. There were never many doubts about where laws would lead, although it was nearly 20 years before national courts and the ECI were obliged to decide that in a conflict between British and European law, Europe counted for more.

comfortable discovery. It is galling to be told by European judges that the famous opt-out from the social chapter is not so comprehensively drafted as was thought at the time. It is enraging to find that Spanish trawlers are perfectly en-titled, and industrially orga-nised, to scoop up fish from British waters. But it would be equally infuriating if no body of law, backed by no tradition of enforcement, pun-ished French farmers for impeding British agriculture exports, or stung the Italians for cheating on their milk quotas. These are such ele-

this aspect of the enterprise,

This can certainly be an un-Court at all, let alone inaugurate a campaign of national disobedience. For example, the regime they propose would, if anything, increase the Court's law-making power even while reducing its retro spective effect. The Prime Minister said this week that he would be looking for improvements in the "functioning" of the Court, and he wanted it to be less federative wanted it to be less federative in its rulings. He will be pub-lishing a paper soon. But the specific proposals he makes, even when dressed in clouds of deflance, are those of some-one who knows how distanced

They talk of the European Court as if it were an optional extra in the Europe system

mentary points that I feel em barrassed to weary the reader by making them. Yet such is the state of all-round phobic fury, and so facile are the nihilistic prescriptions of those who experience it, that it must fall to one newspaper in a sea of jingoistic insecurity to make some minimal state-ments of the obvious.

And here, if you look behind the rhetoric, the Government agrees. Whatever spectres Nicholas Budgen MP conjures

up, making the phobic case for disengagement, the Government isn't run by a bunch of What sort of anarchists. It knows a legal order when it sees one. Ala woman though today's debate will be full of blood and thunder about the competence of a Greek or Swede to lay down are we? the law about the British interest, what ministers are actually proposing to push at the EU intergovernmental conference would hardly touch the



Isabel Hilton

from reality the phobic atti-

The Court is properly part of a debate. Its judgments bear

on the federalistic question,

and its stance on particular matters is open to discussion in the same language, albeit at a primitive stage of develop-ment, as debates about the

American Supreme Court. It exists in a political environ-

ment, but only a philistine would say this meant its

judges were politicians. Al-though the rules of the game

could be changed by treaty, it's years too late for that expe-

dient. Also, one would have

thought, for another. Wreck-ing the legal order is another

way of saying Get Out. The

phobes' concern about the

Court stands proxy once again

for the position which for

some reason they still don't dare confess: that Britain

cal British cock-up is a fam-

iliar mixture of factors. Tradi-tional Whitehall secrecy

makes governments reluctan to be candid with the public.

Last night's freephone offer— a recorded message from the Chief Medical Officer—was

In the absence of a freedom-of-information-culture any tit-

bits of information are seized on by newspapers and con-sumer groups, sometimes blown up out of all propor-tion as Tory MPs claim.

It is a vicious circle, made

worse because science is cen-

tral to understanding the

issues at stake and most of us

are pig-ignorant about science. Scientists themselves

Science's responsibilities extend to facilitating informed public debate, but not

to predicting what the tab-loids will do with its cau-tiously-worded warnings. It is

on Ms Harman's side — for a

We have been here before

with salmonella and Edwina

Currie's famous assault on the egg industry, with Mr

Gummer's hamburger photo-

op, with Stephen Dorrell's reassuring remarks which yesterday fell noticeably

short of saying he would still give burgers to his own kids.

So governments are terri-fled of getting things wrong.

muscular union, the NFU. Do

change - this morning.

should leave Europe.

instantly mocked.

are divided.

tude has become.

N THE days before political correctness, an anec-dote used to circulate about George Bernard Shaw and a lady on a train. It went like this: he put to her the proposition that she sleep with him for £500, an offer which, after some hesitation, she accepted. He put the further proposition that she do so for five shillings. She responded indignantly, "What sort of woman do you take me for?" "Madam," he replied, "that's already been estab-lished. Now we're haggling

A similar negotiation is underway in Geneva, a town where harlotry has been raised to a diplomatic art. The question there is how many lives is the EU prepared to sacrifice for the promise of Airbus sales?

over the price."

On Monday the annual session of the UN Human Rights Commission opened its six-week session. In the final week, towards the end of April, the 53 members will have to decide whether to approve a resolution condemning China for human-rights abuses. The commission has never managed to achieve this feat, though last year it sur-prised itself, first by voting on the issue at all and second by failing to approve it by just one vote, after Russia decided late in the proceedings to throw in its lot with China.

Two years ago the US de-cided to separate the question of Most Favoured Nation trade status from the issue of human rights, as far as the People's Republic was concerned. It was understood that the US administration would compensate for the relaxing of pressure through MFN with a more vigorous policy in the UN Human Rights forum. So far so good. But the US was unwilling, giving the bright sparkle of the Chinese market, to go it alone as the ethical policemen. The US and the EU would act as co-sponsors and joint lobbyists in Geneva this the way to improve China's political record is through constructive engagement, in the hope that rising prosperity in China will bring better po-

litical behaviour. Earlier this month, the US State Department published its annual human-rights might call an encouraging read, but this year it con-tained a particularly bleak as-sessment of the success to date of constructive engagement: clear what sort of woman the economic liberalisation in EU has become. After that, it

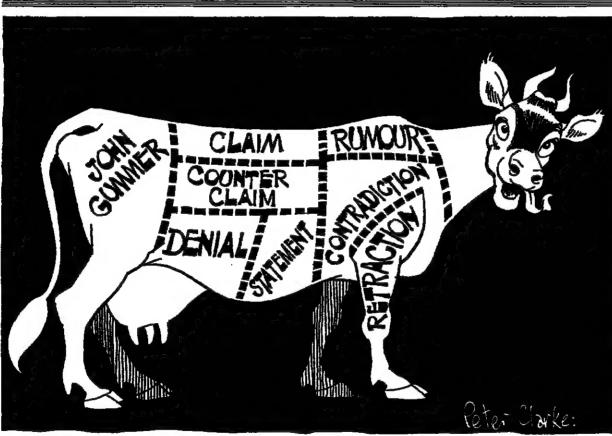
cal reform. In fact the plight of Chinese citizens had wors-ened. The US had sacrificed its ability to influence Beijing's behaviour and had been rewarded, as the report said, with the following results. By the end of 1995, almost all public dissent against the cen-tral authorities had been silenced by intimidation, exile or imprisonment. Had the trade balance benefited? Unfortunately not. Though the overall volume of trade had risen, so had the negative

balance. Back, then, to Geneva where the displeasure of Chi-na's trading partners was to find expression. On February 19, the EU and the US repre sentatives met to co-ordinate their approach. They agreed to present a resolution. But on March 8, when the EU representatives met in Rome, they backtracked and postponed the commitment to present a resolution until the EU for eign ministers' meeting next Monday and Tuesday. What had happened in the mean-time? European leaders had been busy in the far East. They had attended the firstever Asia-Europe summit and one or two had taken advantage of the trip to chat to the

Chinese about business. The Chinese are deciding between Boeing and Airbus for contracts that could be worth in excess of \$2 billion. President Chirac held talks in Bangkok with Li Peng and unconfirmed reports in the French media have it that progress was made. Human rights was not high on the Bangkok agenda.

O SACRIFICE such a large trading opportu-nity for the sake of taking a stand on human rights would be a large political decision. The irony is that, so far, there is little evidence that such sacrifices are really called for. When the German parliament held hearings on Tibet last year, it was against a background of furious protests from Beiling. But the hearings went shead and Ger-man trade has not suffered. The threat of a resolution in Geneva has already produced a flurry of activity in the Chi nese National People's Con-gress, which passed a law on Sunday giving suspects the hitherto unheard-of privilege of being treated as innocent until proven guilty. The NPC also reduced the legal length warrant from several months to 30 days.
The first measure has

brought China into line with UN requirements, which car-ries the implication that UN standards on torture and criminal process could be pro-ductive leverage points, if Western countries were pre-pared to be robust. But if the EU fails to support the US this time, the resolution will cer-tainly fail and it will be all too China had not brought politilis just a question of the price.



Pig in the middle

Michael White argues that in times of mad cows, government has to balance consumer with producer, while below, Mary Midgley deplores blindness

to our kinship with the non-human world

since have destroyed their bargaining power, abolished their costly subsidies and, very probably, replaced their toxic by-products with wholesome gas from the North Sea.

But farmers are a special breed of producers. They may not be as intimately bound to an increasingly suburbanised Conservative Party as they once were. But they are still close enough to warrant senindustrial support-systems that would make widget-mak-

F FARMERS were coal ers weep with envy. Yester-miners the present Gov-ernment would long seven minutes into the BSE since have destroyed statement before Harriet Harman was reminding MPs how
John Gummer once force-fed
his daughter with a hamburger, and only nine minutes in before Tory MPs started crying "cheap," "scar-mongering" or "disgraceful" as Labour's health spokes-man demanded tighter moni-

toring of beef production.
It was much the same when the House last debated BSE and its putative human cousin, Kreutzfeldt-Jakob's Disease, shortly after the last

like Paul Marland, Chris Gill brains, spinal cords and the and Elaine Kellett-Bowman warned against food scares and the damage they might do to Britain's enormous beef into late? Many MPs think so. dustry. Opposition MPs, led by Labour's then agricultural spokesman, David Clark, warned against complacency and sought greater protection for the food chain. He also managed to accuse ministers of putting farm profits in 1979 before safety by abandoning draft regulations which Labour had prepared to stop cows eating scrapie from sheep. Dr Clark's successor. Gavin Strang, plays the same card — penny-pinching and deregulation — over the fall in scientific research and regulation.

In fact much has changed since 1979. It has done so, slowly but steadily, since the three-year gap between the first diagnosis of BSE in catcousin, Kreutzfeldt-Jakob's tle in November 1986 and the farmers have done everything Disease, shortly after the last Government's interventions that was asked of them," said election in July 1992. Farmers to exclude cattle offal — Tyler. What makes this a typi-

Do too much and you destroy the beef industry, including its world-wide export mar-kets, and enrage Britain's last too little and you are open to the charge of killing the vot-

But it is not a straightforward-left-right or even producer-consumer split. Some Labour MPs even feel their agricul-ture team has gone a bit soft on the farmers in recent years (very New Labour) while the ever-independent Tam Dalyell — the New Scientist's man at Westminster — is on the side of the farmers and the scientists against the scare-mongers. "What do they think they're doing to the British farming industry?" he

Paul Tyler, the Cornish Liberal Democrat who posed a string of questions in 1992 said yesterday that his farmers would be as angry today as his other constituents. "They'll feel let down too. The

little to remind them of its

folly. Warnings of any seri-

ous danger to our civilisa-

tion seem unreal to these people. Equally, protests as-

and value of animals and

plants strike them as

empty, sentimental and

them do unthinkingly assume a good deal of it, and their indoor way of life does does not usually take a reli-

ers. Imagine what the Sun would do if the suspicion of BSE hung over filthy foreign food being imported from Frogland! There again, some Tory MPs hinted yesterday, French regulation is laxer than ours.

Maybe. They do things differ-ently in Paris. But — as in the privatised industries or the National Lottery — the new British regulatory culture finds it hard to take on producer interests. They are pussy cats compared with their robust US counterparts

Labour has long urged breaking up the old Ministry of Agriculture, a producers' lobby which Thatcherism would not have tolerated in any other industry. It wants a consumer-driven Ministry of Food and Farming. It may not have prevented BSE or yes-terday's tough choices. But it might have rebalanced the equation.

gious form. The Christian Church has largely denied any sacredness to non-

human nature, and the sec ular worship of Mammon which has followed Chris-

tianity takes the same line.

It too allows only one divin-

But the link between de-

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UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

Dr Mary Midgley is a former senior lecturer in philosophy at Newcastle University, and be safe and prosperous our- author of The Ethical Primate

Away with superstition NCE again our rulers | rational, a conception | ble background, a larder, a are confronted by strongly entrenched among | heap of recovers to be alarmed about the research

alarms about the pos sbility that "mad cow disease" has infected humans. The Government's own investigatory committee new strain of Kreutzfeldt-lakoh's Disease, the disease which is suspected — and has been suspected since the late 1980s — to result from such infection. But is it, they now ask, really the same disease? Inquiries are

again to be made ... We shall certainly see those in power react with a certain familiar sort of incredulity. The sources of their resistance deserve attention. Besides the mere inertia of any government which is asked to change its mind - besides the simple habit of secrecy — we surely see here a special character-

strongly entrenched among members of the establishment throughout this

Rationality, in this view, makes three rulings which bear on this case. First, rationality tells us always to assume that current policies are sensible and that the world is steady and uniform. Change as such is unlikely. Secondly, therefore, we need not alter our policy unless there is incontrovertible cast-iron proof that something unexpected has happened. This raising of the standards of evidence is treated as an irresistible de-

And thirdly — a rather different matter — rationality tells us that the human race is cut off by an un-breakable barrier from all see here a special character—the rest of nature. Other life—naive—and surprising doc—be safe and prosperous our—author of Th istic conception of what is—forms exist only as a hum—trine. Nevertheless, many of—selves if we show no respect—(Routledge)

heap of resources to be ma-nipulated by our technology. The fact that we arose from them may be acknowledged as a quaint story about the past, but it carries no obligations of kinship today and puts us in no danger of common disaster. As H G Wells once put it, the human race is in a position where it can and should "bring to trial every other earthly organism from the rhinoceros to the tubercle bacillus" and decide whether to let them live or not. The idea that people could catch a disease from cows is therefore not just an unproven fancy but an absurd one, implausible because radically unfitting.

about environmental disas No doubt not all the honourable gentlemen in grey suits subscribe to all of this

superstitious.

make both these kinds of ness to our own future danprotests and to link them gers surely makes perfectly together in a way which our own culture — unlike many others - has for some centuries officially rejected. People are shocked at the brutal way in which we treat animals and plants. They also see reason to believe that we are bringing ters. And they see the one thing as a suitable conse-quence of the other. How (they ask) can we expect to

Outside these circles, however, increasing numbers of people now want to good sense in secular terms There is nothing superstitious about it. Whereas Wells's vision of humanity as the kind of independent quasi-divine figure sitting in judgment on the whole biosphere surely is superstitions. Which picture are we

going to endorse today?

ADHAVIAH Krish Indian Board for Weddife and nan, who has diet played an important role in aged 83, was one of Project Tiger, launched more

those remarkable than 20 years ago in collabo-

polymaths that India projection with what was then duces. He was an artist, pholynown as the World Wilding

tographer, writer, poet Fund. At that time there was

scholar of the Southern In a serious danger of the indian

dian language Tamil, studentinger becoming extinct, of dance and music, and Although in recent years above all a naturalist. Histograph has been a revival of

long, thun, face, dominated by maching the Indian tiger is a pair of large black spec sill to be found in the mainif-tacles, reflected the man he entinational parks protected was — a disciplined, demand-inder Project Ticer Krish

ing, dedicated perfectionist, an's work was recognised by who despised the slip-shod, it indian government, and rejected shortcuts. Per-tich awarded him the

haps best known for his tima Shri, a national deco-photographs of the animals and by the United and plants of the Indian for-age Environment Pro-

rame, which placed his no on the Global Roll of

Horir in 1995 Wilife photography apart,

Krisian was also known for

his totographs of monu-ment He had written short

storwand his Tamu novel is

due the published shortly

In mir ways he was an old-

fashiod man. He shunned

public and made no effort

to comee for journalistic or

photoaphic prizes. He regard, the modern fad for

travelag with distaste.

Apart Im his visits to the forests I rarely left Modiras.

and nevewent outside India. He was groud Indian, par-ticularly roud of his coun-

try's unit: flora and fauna It is an propriate coinci-dence that is last column in

the Stateson was headlined Exclusivel ndian.

Natural; was not the career Krisan was intended

for. His fatr was a writer, but thoughtie law would be a safer careeor the youngest

of his eight claren, so Krishnan went to idras Universi

ty to read th subject. How-

ever he neverok to the law

At first he beine a commer-

cial artist, us; the skill he was later to sw in the line drawings whicoften accom-

panied his acles in the Statesman He en moved to

All India Radifor a short

tume, and after at joined the service of the iler of the

princely state (Sandur in Karnataka, He psued a var-ied career there, ding up as

a senior civil seant. When Sandur was ment with the

Indian Union aft Partition.

Krishnan begathis long

career as a freelan journal-

ist, photographer rust and

He and his wife Jumathi.

who he married 10035, had

one son, Harikrisa, who has followed in hifather's

Madhaviah Krishnan, nirahsi,

born June 30. 1912; die ebru-

naturalist

Mark Tully

haps best known for his photographs of the animals

ests, he never took to modern

gets. He preferred to measure

distance and gauge light the

way he had always done, keeping his skill honed.

Photography was only one aspect of Krishnan's work as

a naturalist. He made long

and carefully planned visits to forests, filling his notebook with his observations. He de-

manded the strictest disci-

pline of anyone who accompa-nied him into the forests. One

of his sishya, or disciples, said: "You spoke when you

bles." Travelling with him into the forests must must

have been an alarming expe-rience because he had a leg-endary temper, and did not

suffer fools gladly. Krishnan felt a particular affinity for the Indian ele-

phant, saying often: "I am more than half an elephant

myself." But he did not limit his studies to that animal.

Some of his photographs of Indian tigers are outstanding. He was proud that on one oc-

casion he put right the fam-

ous Indian ornithologist,

Salim Ali. Krishnan's draw-

ings show his skill in observ-

column in the Statesman, an

English daily. He started writ-

ing for the paper 46 years ago and his final Country Note-

book appeared the day before he died. In his obituary the

editor of the Statesman wrote:

"M Krishnan was an ideal columnist, the dream of every

editor. His pieces arrived reg-

ularly, they needed no edit-ing, and no correspondence."

Krishnan also wrote for a more scholarly readership. His *Illustrated Report on In*-

dia's Wildlife (1975) is ar-knowledged as a work of rig-orous scholarship. He had

Realising the threat facing the forests of India and their

unique plant and animal life

Krishnan threw himself into

the wildlife protection move-

ment. He was a member of the

Jungle and Backyard.

The results of his research

ing plants and trees.

Madhaviah Krihnan

Silent ourney

to the orest

In defence of the indefensible

cans of his generation, was born to succeed. And by most standards Enders, who has died aged 64, must be judged a noambassador and an assistant secretary of state and finally a managing director of Salomon Brothers finance group.

But from the perspective of a young man formally de-clared the most gifted scholar of his year at Yale, a diplomat who awed most of his contem poraries, and one who helped national economic summits his career ended in rancour

and disappointment. Enders was an extraordinary figure, 6st 8in tall and with intensely piercing eyes, a near albino who was known in diplomatic circles as "the white rabbit". Most of his colleagues recall him as arro-gant and intimidating: his defenders, like former secretary

mind into the gross simplicities of grand strategy, as waged by the presidencies of

the cleverest and in the early 1970s, he deliberately stalled and misled congressional investigators who were trying to ascertain the stability of the Lon Nol regime and the role of US misleading".

The investigators, James Lowenstein and Richard Moose, then bought cheap short-wave radios in the Phnom Penh market, and lis-

suade the Senate foreign relations committee to confirm committee noted publicly that Enders had been "grossly

Away from the front line of Cold War diplomacy, Enders prospered. As assistant secretary for economic affairs in 1974, he ran the task force on US responses to the Opec

He was lured into the gross simplicities of grand strategy as waged by the presidencies of Nixon and Reagan

orders and co-ordinates to the US warplanes engaged in the "secret" bombing campaign.
Thanks to Dr Henry Kissin

ger. Enders survived this em-barrassment, just as he had a series of furious rows with of state Al Haig. say he did not suffer fools gladly.

Enders had the ambition to play at the highest levels, and this lurged his fixed to the sample. this lured his finely tuned dix to Kissinger's memoirs. which tried to fend off criticism by suggesting there "is no evidence of massive civilian casualties" as a result of the secret bombing.

tened in to establish that US | price rise and the energy cri-Embassy officials were giving | sis, and virtually founded the sis, and virtually founded the International Energy Agency. As ambassador to Canada from 1976-79, and to the Euro-pean Community in Brussels in 1979-81, he fulfilled much of

his early promise. Then the Reagan presidency called him back to the Cold War's front lines in Latin America, as assistant secretary of state. Always keen to prove that a man of his intellectual gifts had the moral toughness required for grand strategy, he found him-self repeatedly defending the indefensible, as US aid was veterans of Argentina's "dirty war" were hired to train counter-insurgency teams like the infamous Battalion 316 of Honduras.

These countries were "making a significant effort to comply with internationally rec-ognised human rights", he constantly assured Congress. insisting "there is no evi-dence to confirm" the press reports of what later became hideously proven as the mas-sacre of El Mozote.

Enders began by talking to the Sandinistas of Nicaragua, hoping to pursue a twin-track approach of serious negotia-tions, under the threat of increasing the military pressure through the Nicaraguan enough for the cold warriors of the Reagan years, who refused to endorse a deal which Enders reached with Daniel Ortega that might have ended the war, at the price of allowing the Sandinista regime to survive National security adviser Richard Allen and CIA director William Casey combined to block the deal, and Enders finally resigned in 1983.

He became ambassador to Spain for three years, and then moved into banking where Salomon Brothers credited him with "a major It took intense lobbying by | poured into the hideous | role in the return of borrow- | up master's degrees from Har-



ers in Argentina, Brazil | vard and the Sorbonne, and Chile and Mexico to the inter | met his Italian wife while national financial markets." Descended from 18th-cen-tury Dutch settlers on his

father's side, and from the founders of the Connecticut colony through his mother. Tom Enders was born wealthy and privileged, and exceedingly clever. He picked researching a dissertation on medieval Morocco. He was a noted mountaineer, with passion for gardens.

Thomas Enders, diplomat, born

Intensity and passion

38, was a tenor whose qualities did not necessarily match the clean standardised performances of the CD age. His was not perhaps the most beautiful voice in conventional terms, but its idiosyncratic plangent quality distinguished all his performances. He could unerringly capture the essence of the piece in hand and was a real personality on stage. He was memorable as Sam Kap-lan in the Aids gala Street Scene at the Palace Theatre, where he took to spoken dia-logue like a duck to water, and extraordinarily vivid in Sondheim's Assassins for Sam Mendes at the Donmar.

text, and sincerity to the dramatic meaning. He took risks. safety. He was a professional's professional, a "com-pany" man, more at home with smaller institutions than the Royal Opera. He would say, typically, "we are all in it

He started singing as a boy with the Swansea Bach Choir under John Huw Thomas, who remained a friend. He was at the Royal Northern College, and Guildhall School where his teacher was Rudolf Piernay, with whom he Joseph Tal, he enormously stayed to the end. At the impressed the management—Guildhall he won the BP as Hanna Munitz of the New

AUL HARRHY, who | Scholarship, the Alfred and | Israeli Opera recalled — by has died of Aids aged | Catherine Howard Prize for | his skill not only in the music Tenors, the Mirsky Memorial Prize, and a Mendelssohn scholarship from the Boise

Foundation. His operatic debut came, a couple of weeks earlier than planned, when he took over the whole run of perfor-80's Traviata in 1984, immediately after the premiere. He really scored two years later with Tom Rakewell, again for Opera 80, in a production of Rake's Progress by the then unknown Richard Jones. Paul regretted never singing for his native Welsh National Opera. But he was with all the other British companies, no-tably as Mime in Jones's For Three Oranges for Opera North. His presence in so many Jones productions was

abroad, notably to the Netherlands and Israel. His voice was particularly suited to modern music, where he achieved a feat sadly not witnessed by his many friends. Invited to understudy and rehearse the long title role in David Al-den's demanding and physi-cally active production of the new Hebrew opera Josef by Joseph Tal, he enormously impressed the management —

credit to his remarkable act-

ing. Later work took him

but in acquiring the ability to sing in Hebrew. As a rare ges ture, he was allowed to take over one of the only three per formances. His last work was as Truffaldino in another outing for the Jones staging, for Opera Zuid in Holland. His colleagues could see how ill he was, but affectionately rallied to his aid to get him through the performing that was his means of fighting the illness. When he could not ful-fill the contract, his only concern was for his double-cast colleague, having to sing four

nights in a row.

His work was marked with Rheingold for Scottish Opera. Geraid Surry adds: I first met orous scholarship. He had has followed in hisather's a blazing honesty. He always His calling card role was brought total clarity to the Truffaldino in Jones's Love the role of d'Esperaudieu in collection of writings called Conservator of Fore in his the first performance of my opera The Intelligence Park at the Almeida. He laughed a lot, and a very operatic one is captured in a recording of the

opera. I always myself laugh out loud when I hear it. When I would ask for more ready an extremely demand ing role, he would sigh and then give everything he had. His intensity and passion were rare, and it makes me very sad that they are now

Paul Lewis Harrhy, opera singer and actor, born Septe: 1957: died March 8, 1996

Birthdays

Marie-Christine Barrault, actress, 52; Peter Brook, the-atrical producer, 71; Brian Clough, former football manager, 61; Ann Clwyd, Labour MP, 59; Timothy Dalton, actor, 50; Michael Dibdin, crime writer, 49; Geoffrey Dearmer, poet, 103; Ieuan Evans, rugby player, 32; Michael Foreman, author, illustrator, 58: Llin Golding, Labour MP, 63: Prof Richard Hare, philosopher, 77; David Heathcoat-Amory, MP. Pay-master-General, 47; Michael Heseltine, MP. Deputy Prime Minister, 63; Antony Hop-kins, composer, conductor, broadcaster, 75; Alvin Kallicharran, cricketer, 47: Ann Mackay, soprano, 40: Mat-thew Maynard, cricketer, 30; Ved Mehta, author and jour-nalist, 62: Baroness Nicol, Labour Whip in the Lords, 73; Gary Oldman, actor. 38; Mike Westbrook, bandleader, composer, 60.

Disconce Society of you man.

PRIESTLEY. On March 18th 1994 agod 5 at Chettenham General Mospital after a short tilness, Jacquetta Prinstiller Maseria, Oberly loved mother of Nicotom and grammother of Carmilla and Joseph or Service of Mankaguann at Chroting and bottowed wife of the late of E. Renselvey Service of Mankaguann at Chroting Carrieden Parish Church on Manday March 25th at 200pm. Family Mosers only presended attended for Campalen Home Nurseng Trust in Termina Forestal Orectors, 19 Shorp Sheet Chipping Campaden.

ETo place your armouncement leternome 3171 713 4567 Fax 0171 713 4129

packing up. I corner the naked.

Pamelo Mounk'a

Paul Harrhy with Anna Steiger in ENO's Makropulos Case

Sweet voice of the Congo

DAMELO MOUNK'A. who has died aged 50, was a sweet-voiced, Congolese singer, a distinguished composer and part of the early 1980s African music wave. Born Mbemba Yvon in

Brazzaville's Poto Poto district. Pamelo wrote his first song aged nine. In 1963 he made his debut with premier Congolese band, Les Bantous de la Capitale. In 1964 he crossed the river to Leopoldto join Taby Ley Rochereau in African Fiesta, one of the top

Brussels they recorded his Ritmo Del Congo and other Mounk'a compositions.

Later in 1964, with conflict etween the two Congos (Brazzaville and Leopold-ville), he returned to the north bank. With the Bantous he toured Cameroon and Senegal and in 1968 recorded his first big hit, Masuava.
In the late 1960s Pamelo capitalised on the soukous craze with records which car-

PHOTOGRAPH: CATHERINE ASHMORE

ried his name across Africa. In 1973 he and singer Kosmos Congolese rumba bands, Moutouari quit Les Bantous which became the basis of a to form Le Peuple du Trio Ce-

whole school of music. In pakos, but he was later Brussels they recorded his recalled by the Marxist government to rejoin the Bantous for a festival in Cuba. In 1981 he settled in France and consolidated a solo

career. His biggest hit L'ar-gent Appelle L'argent (Money Calls Money) sold more than 400,000 copies in Africa, Europe and the Antilles. Buala Yayi Mambu, criticis-ing corrupt politicians and sung in a Kikongo dialect followed. His success was rooted in his dulcet voice and the emotional appeal of his compositions.

In 1982 his third solo album

in one weekend in Paris and in 1983 he marked 20 years in show-business with a 12country African tour. Three years later he participated in Africa For Africa, a response to Live Aid, and was recalled by Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso — then pre siding over the Organisation of African States — to accompany him to 30 African states. Back home he became the Bantous's chef d'orchestre.

From 1988 Pamelo had suf-fered from diabetes and he returned to Paris where a few months ago he performed at

sold more than 10,000 copies | the wedding of another Congolese hero, the guitarist and composer Papa Noel. Late last year he returned to Brazza-ville, suffered a relapse and never recovered. Few Congolese artists have

achieved the glory earned by their Zairean neighbours, but Pamelo Mounk's was appreciated by all. Never formally married, he fathered at least 10 children.

Pamelo Mounk'a, musician, born

Jackdaw

Bunny boom

IT WOULD be good to have a chat with the News Bunny, but we can't. He's standing in the Tamworth byelection, and is spending the day campaign-ing. A cardboard sign is propped up on his desk, written in magic marker. It says BUNN GONE TO TAM-WORTH, BACK TOMORROW. Beside this legend someone has sellotaped a carrot.

There is, in short, nothing happening. But today is Friday 9 February, And at 7.01 pm precisely, while Helen is readng a news builetin, the IRA detonate an enormous bomb at South Quay station, barely half a mile away. As the device

detonates, the whole building moves underfoot, and insulation rains down from the ceiling. The fire alarms go off. The lifts lock. Helen keeps reading the news, but around her there are suddenly people every-where, running to the windows, to the phones. No one has any idea what has happened. Was it a bomb further down the building? Was it a plane crashing into it? Is there a fire? Are we trapped up here? It is quickly established that

it is a bomb. Where, no one knows. The alarms are still going off. Emerging from his office, Nick Ferrari [Live TV's number two] immediately begins striding about like Montit was, Live TV has to tell its viewers about it. "I want a bulletin written

for broadcast in two minutes. he tells a reporter. Increasingly mindful of the fact that the building we are standing in might as well be a garishly illuminated 40-storey invitation that says KILL US ALL to every disaffected explosives expert in the British Isles, the reporter wavers...
It is at this point that someone notices an IRA statement put out on the wire sometime her phone and shouts across the office: "No News Bunny we still don't know where the bomb is. The 24th floor is full of people staring fruitlessly out of the windows into the blackness. Cameras are set up beside them, transmitting inky views of darkened office blocks, glistening water and now, a police belicopter hover-

ing over the dock . . . Out of nowhere, Kelvin MacKenzie appears, and prowls about in a malign haze of unspeakable power and dark intent, like Darth Vader in a suit . . . Moments later . . . he attempts to throw us out of the building. "You've seen enough, haven't you? You can go now, can't you." Outside the building it is pitch black. Transport in the area is completely frozen. Emergency services are streaming into the area from all over London. People are

gripped by panic. And out there somewhere there is al-

most certainly another huge

explosive device. Suggesting that we go out there for a bit of

a walkabout is hardly a com-

passionate or reasonable sug-

gestion. We refuse . . . One of

for these bulletins, everyone.' Adam Higginbotham joins the live and dangerous folk at Live TV, for Sky magazine. Key questions

UNTIL just the other day, I thought the computer had greatly enhanced my life and income and, despite some obvious dislocations, those of most other Americans as well. I'm no longer so sure . . . For nearly two decades, computers have let me set my own type, cutting out the linotypists, proofreaders and compositors who used to turn my words into lead impressions. These congenial colleagues gradu-ally retired and I assumed that the money the company saved was shared with the surviving work force, me included, and with readers, advertisers and shareholders.

Computers have also let me charge my telephone calls from anywhere with no more interruptions from insistent operators . . . I've assumed

digitised voices has greatly reduced the cost of everyone mer operators now operate profitable answering services in the comfort of their Nebraska homes. Computers have been depositing my pay-

checks directly in the bank . . . And now I have learned to de-liver all my tedious tax compilations to a computer . . . You get the picture: I'm no Luddite, All my life, I have been convinced that technol ogy makes life not only easier

but also more productive. And I've been sure that greater prowealth that would be fairly spread among all of us. I knew, of course, that computers, like other new machines, would kill jobs, but I assumed they would turn right around and create more and better jobs in the next business cycle. No reason to fear computers, except maybe if you were a chess champion. Well. I'm having some second thoughts . . . Computers have enriched a small class of technological wizards and management con-sultants who streamline pro-

duction, merging and "down-

sizing" and "re-engineering" the companies of America to the great benefit of managements and stockholders. But those same computers have eliminated many jobs and significantly reduced the skills needed in the jobs that survive, thereby weakening the bargaining power and income of most wage earners ... Computers are creating more wealth all right, but it is shared mainly by stockhold-

ers, top managers and what

Felix Rohatyn calls a "new technological aristocracy" Max Frankel wonders about the present future in the New York

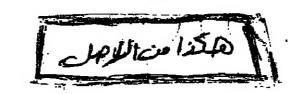
Disconnected

SOMETIMES I wonder about this job. Here I am, in the grounds of a mansion in Las Vegas, jostling and craning my neck to get a look at John Wayne Bobbitt's penis. I have been invited, along with two tabloid TV crews, a portrait artist, and a small crowd of hangers-on, to attend the filming of Frankenpenis, Bobbitt's second hardcore porn video. He is lying on a blanket by a lake, clad in a colourful pair of briefs, his face buried in a set of silicone breasts. Three naked starlets are trying everything they know to rouse the world's most famous penis from its stubborn repose. Here on the sidelines, people are making \$50 bets. Will Bobbitt be able to get it up or, to use the porn industry term, "get wood"? And if so, when? Bobbitt's manager, Aaron Gordon, is pessimistically betting 72 hours . . . While the crew are

post-coital Bobbitt in the disorder makes him a strange interviewee. He has prepared answers which are semi-memorised, but they come our more or less at random. Q: John. is it true that you drew a knufe under your signature on the divorce papers with Lorena?
A: "Going into surgery again
was a challenge but I'm a marine, and I thrive on challenge. Q: Are you happy with the new penis? A: "When you make love to a woman, be creative. teasing and tantalising and caressing." Q: Do you plan to make a carerr as an adult video tar? A: "I recommend the surery to anyone. I'm extremely satisfied with the results. I'm like a horse now." Aichard Grant visits the set of John Wayne Bobbitt's latest novie" for Esquire.

Ackdow words your jewels. Email jackdau a guardian co uk; fox 0171-713 4366; Jackdau, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Read, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

High street spending rises

City sceptical about further rate cuts

night sceptical about the prospect of further interest rate cuts, after the latest set of high street statistics showed consumer spending on the increase.

Despite gloomy news from Britain's engineering sector, forward rates in London's money markets reflected the growing belief among dealers that base rates may have bot-

tomed out at 6 per cent.
Data from the Central Statistical Office showed that the volume of retail sales rose by 0.6 per cent in February, cancelling out the decline seen in

January.

The official figures confirmed a recent upbeat survey of shops and stores from the Confederation of British In-dustry and underlined the gradual pick-up in activity since mortgage rates were first reduced last Autumn. In the three months to February — a better guide to the underlying trend than one

Lord of the

6m cards

rings issues

£100 million upgrade of the BT Chargecard service has left Danny Jen-nings (right), head of card services at British Telecom,

minding the issuing of six million cards to customers

within six weeks, writes

BT, which says the opera-

tion is the biggest card re-issue of its kind in the UK,

has improved the service to provide extra benefits for

customers and reduce oper-

The original service en-

abled customers to make calls from almost any

phone in the UK and have

the costs transferred to their home or office bill in

the UK. The service was later extended to overseas calls made to the UK.

The new cards can now be used to make calls from one

other. BT is also planning

to give a 10 per cent discount on Chargecard calls

home made by customers

participating in its Friends

PHOTOGRAPH: STEWART GOLDSTEIN

& Family scheme.

month's figures - retail sales were 0.7 per cent up on the previous quarter. Over the year to February, the annual rate of increase was 1.9 per cent, the fastest since April

last year. Ciaran Barr, UK economist for Deutsche Morgan Gren-fell, said: "Although patchy, the recovery in retail sales is evident. From being flat only six months ago, retail sales growth is now 2 per cent and

Manufacturers are hopeful that the pick-up in high street demand - underpinned by a gradual improvement in con-sumer confidence — will eventually ripple down the supply chain and lead to an increase in order books. But the latest quarterly survey from the Engineering Employers' Federation indicated that retailers and wholesalers are still meeting demand

from stocks rather than by placing new orders. The federation's director general, Graham Mackenzie, said recovery in the engineering industry, suffering from a dearth of new orders, particu-larly in the home market, was

One sector of engineering that has seen a spurt in out-put is the motor industry, where production last month reached its highest level since

records began in 1977. The EEF said it was also en couraged at the resilience of investment, a trend borne out by the latest money supply figures from the Bank of

England. The annual growth in the broad measure of the money supply (M4) slipped back to just under 10 per cent last month, but a detailed breakdown of the figures showed that industry and business was increasing borrowing for investment plans.

Some analysts have ex-pressed concern at the high annual growth rate in M4 which measures cash and bank and building society deposits — warning that it is a sign of inflation ahead. However, the minutes of the February monetary meet-

ing between the Treasury and the Bank of England, which left base rates unchanged, show Chancellor Kenneth Clarke relaxed about the monetary data. He said it was not clear that M4 growth posed an inflationary at the moment".

"poised on a knife edge". Output was still rising, but at its slowest rate for two years. Output was rising at 41 per cent of firms, while 26 per cent said production was declining. For new orders, 40 per cent reported an increase against 31 per cent posting a fall. One sector of projection end to housing recession

Tony May and Larry Elliott

ORTGAGE lenders and house builders yesterday expressed cautious optimism that the seven-year recession in the property market is over, as the impact of lower interest rates began to feed through

with the key spring buy-ing season about to begin, Beazer Homes, the UK's second-largest house-builder, said it could detect signs of improvement after the depressed trading con-ditions in 1995.

Dennis Webb, chief executive of the Bath-based group, said there was evi-dence of an upturn in consumer confidence due to reassurance that mortgage interest tax relief would not be further eroded. "We have seen a market improvement in the last quarter of the 1995 calen dar year and since Christ-mas," he said. This was

reservations for homes. At the end of December the

£2,395 million as the housebuying season picked up, according to the BSA tors continue to suggest that a modest housing marsupported by an increase in way," said Peter Williams, head of research at the

£760 million.

group had completed 2,001 homes at an average selling price of £67,200. price of £67,200.
Mr Webb was echoing the report two weeks ago by Wimpey. Britain's biggest housebuilder, that consumer confidence was stirring once again. The group was "cautiously optimisthe summer and beyond." The building industry is

tic" about prospects for the rest of the year.
Figures released by the
Building Societies Association yesterday showed
gross advances by lenders
falling marginally last month to £2,531 million from £2,564 million in Jan-uary, while net advances after repayments of loans ourselves catching up the shortfall from the first fell to £603 million from

But approvals of future half." mortgages rose steeply to £2,865 million from

BSA. "The latest reduction in mortgage rates, allied to stable house prices, should prompt greater housebuy-ing interest during the spring period."
Ian Shepherdson, econo-

mist at City firm HSBC, said the housing market had so far done no more than make up the ground lost in 1995. "There has been enough activity recently to keep prices rising for another couple of months, but we will need to see a revived rise in mortgage demand if the recovery is to continue into

hopeful that the worst is over. Wimpey saw its profits fall 65 per cent to £15.6 million in 1995. Beazer yesterday blamed weak consumer confidence for a 15 per cent fall in profits to £18.5 million for the first half of its financial year. Mr Webb said of the second half: "We expect to make up some of the fall in profit but we do not see

Marley plc, a building materials manufacturer reported that its 1995 profit was down 8.8 per cent to £43.6 million and blamed the slowdown in the housand the US. Its chairman, Sir George Russell, said: "In both countries a more positive mood appears to be developing."

Regulators keep firm grip on BT



Edited by Alex Brummer

HE bad blood which has marred the relationship between Oftel and British Telecom may have been leeched out — on the orders of new BT chief executive Sir Peter Bonfield — but the reg-ulator has lost none of its passion in defence of the

As Oftel's consultative document shows, it is intent on continuing the price restraints on the telecoms group. The new wholesale price cap on network ser-vices, first put forward in December and detested by BT,

remains in place. The upper end of the pro-posed range for the annual retail price cap would be sig-nificantly tighter than the present inflation minus 7.5 per cent formula which BT blames for the bulk of its reduced profits.

The only crumb of comfort for BT is that the regulator, after listening to the capital markets, has accepted that its network is not a utility. He has upped the estimate of how much BT should pay for its capital to between 9 per cant and 13 per cent. But BT still believes that 17 per cent is appropriate for an increasingly risky business.

BT's main worry is that it could be left with insufficient funds to invest in upgrading its network — not a wholly convincing argument from a company which was planning to dole out £8 billion to shareholders to sweeten a possible merger with Cable and

The group does face problems about what to do with the network, especially as software becomes available enabling people to make in-ternational and long distance calls over the Internet for the price of a local call. Maybe the time has come for share-holders, who have enjoyed handsome dividends from BT,

to provide further funds. BT should also take a tough stance towards those fire-brands pressing it to reject all Oftel proposals and go for a Monopolies and Mergers The outcome of such an investigation could be more damaging than anything Oftel throws at them.

Barings bruise

DLAINLY, the Securities and Futures Authority is disturbed by the almost universal scepticism which has greeted its disciplinary procedures against ormer Barings directors. It takes the view that it did all within its power to find ways of bringing former chairman Peter Baring and his deputy Anthony Tuckey to book for losing the bank — but the limits imposed by nat-

ural justice prevented the SFA from proceeding against them. Incompetent Messrs Baring and Tuckey may have been, but there was nothing to suggest that they acted wrongly by either omission or commission

In such circumstances, and after advice from a senior QC, it was decided not to proceed against them. The promises extracted from Mr Tuckey, about future work on the fi-nancial markets, were the best deal that could be made. Where the SFA acknowledges that it may have gone wrong is in its failure to explain itself, both in the case of the executives at the top of Barings and those against whom it is taking disciplinary action lower down the scale. The refusal to provide names, which were in the public domain through the Board of Banking Supervi-sion report and the Singapore

inspectors contribution, is seen as probably mistaken. The SFA, historically, has been cautious in the disclo-sure of names under investigation for fear of causing sys-temic harm. But even this does not hold much water given the exposure of the mis-takes of investment houses in numerous DTI investigations over the years, including

As the SFA is now starting to acknowledge what is wrong in its procedures is the cul-ture of secrecy. Charges in court are open to public scru-tiny, so there is no reason why those facing SFA disciplinary proceedings should not be publicly named, too.

Moreover, it is clearly mad-equate that the nature of the falling, in indivivual ca was not disclosed by the SFA in the Barings case. By its se-crecy the SFA has done the reputation of market regula-tion no good at all. But at least it has the sense to recognise the error of its ways.

Retail rebound

"His rebound in retall sales in February will come as no surprise to the bosses at Britain's leading chain stores. There is increas ing confidence from larger retailers, like Marks & Spencer, that the depressed atmosphere on the high street are starting to lift and that real increases in sales from cloth-ing to household goods is starting to come throu

The view is that this confldence is being supported by the easing of the tax burdens imposed by Chancellor Norman Lamont at the height of the PSBR problem in 1993-94. In much the same way as the consumer spending slowed shead of those increases, so it appears to be improving in anticipation of future cuts.

Official figures just out show a month-on-month rise of 0.6 per cent — in line with expectations, with the threemonth figure up 0.7 per cent. Not spectacular. But with April tax cuts to come and the most recent mortgage-rate reductions still to take effect, the outlook for consumer spending and, with it, the feelgood factor and the Government, seems to be improving

around-the-clock investiga-tion by agents in New York, Atlanta and Richmond. The

two have been charged with bank fraud and face up to 30

years in prison and \$1 million in fines if convicted.

The pair allegedly hatched

the scheme in 1993. Pretending to work for Philip Morris,

where Mr Reiners was a former employee, the two ap-

proached banks for funding,

the Department of Justice

The banks thought they

were lending money to a com-

City buries hatchet on order-driven trading Germany acts

Patrick Donoumn City Editor

HE warring factions within the London Stock Exchange are atrow over the future of City share trading by today giving ent system of quote-driven unanimous backing to the dealing, under which market launch of an order trading makers post prices at which equity market.
The shake-up, the biggest

market upheaval since the 1987 "Big Bang", will be announced at today's Stock Exchange board meeting, BZW deputy chief executive Donald Brydon told the all-party Treasury Select Committee.

tion will be unopposed sug-gests that there has been a huge about turn by big market makers such as BZW which had publicly opposed market reforms.

BZW was one of several big City firms who have staunchly defended the presthey are prepared to trade equities. Firms such as BZW have huge amounts of capital tied up in market making operations, allowing them to offer competing prices in ex-change for risking their own money to hold shares and make a continuous market.

plans for an order-driven | ing the findings of a consulta-market which electronically | tion by the Stock Exchange matches buy and sell orders. The debate over the change has raged through the City and was a factor in the recent sacking of the former Stock Exchange chief executive, Michael Lawrence.

Mr Brydon denied that tee bearing BZW had opposed changes be-cause it was afraid of losing the huge profits it generates through the traditional market making system. He an-grily rebuffed suggestions by Labour MP Diane Abbott that
BZW and the other two biggest City houses had effectively "rigged the market".

agement style was
unsafe", he added.
Stock Exchange
John Kemp-Welch. make a continuous market. He insisted that BZW had a rately appeared before the Instead, there are now change of heart after study. MPs, refused to comment on

authorities, and rubbished claims by the ousted Mr Law victim of a "market maker's coup".
"This is absolutely wrong,"

Mr Brydon told the commit Mr Brydon, who had been

party to Mr Lawrence's removal at a January 4 board meeting, described the former chief executive's behavious agement style was "generally

Stock Exchange chairman John Kemp-Welch, who sepa-

today's expected market reforms. But he shed more light on the acrimonious row over the market's future, say ing that every member of the Exchange board voted against Mr Lawrence remaining when the proposal was put to them at a January 4 meeting. Mr Kemp-Welch also res-ponded to an allegation by Mr Lawrence that he had said, just before the latter was that market makers

were always wrong. Mr Kemp-Welch said it was a lighthearted remark, made in with market makers when he zenove before joining the Exchange.

to stamp out new wave of corruption

Kevin Liffey in Bonn

AWAVE of corruption cases in business and pub-lic administration has forced the German government to put forward tougher prison sentences, including five years for bribery, and wider powers of investigation.

Ordinary Germans were taken aback last July by revelations that prosecutors were investigating more than 200 people at 40 companies. among them 65 past and present staff at the General Motors subsidiary Opel. The Opel investigations and

a spate of other high-profile tax evasion and fraud cases belief that public life here is largely free of corruption.
"The level of corruption which exists in Germany is unacceptable," said interior minister Manfred Kanther. "It may not be a mass crime, but the credibility of the state suffers from the actions of

Justice Minister Edzard Schmidt-Jortzig said 3,000 public servants were found guilty of corruption every year, and that experts put the annual damage to the economy from corruption in all walks of life at DM4 billion

black sheep in public

(£1.77 billion). The government has al-ready abolished a peculiar aspect of German law allowing firms to offset bribes paid to secure foreign contracts as tax-deductible expenses.

US banks caught out by computer leasing scheme

Work Tran in New York

AMERICAN banks alleg-edly have been conned out of hundreds of millions of dollars by a man and a womtobacco group Philip Morris seeking loans for computer equipment leases.
Victims of their elaborate

scam included: NationsBank, Signet Bank, CoreStates, Bank of Montreal, Hitachi American Credit, Credit Anstaldt and Long Term Credit Bank of Japan. Signet, based in Richmond,

Virginia was the most heavily exposed with \$81 million in loans, but said it expected to recover a "substantial" amount NationsBank parted with \$60 million but also expected to get some back. The FBI arrested Edward

Reiners and Judy Bachman

puter leasing company in Richmond providing equip-ment for Philip Morris in research conducted offshore.

"This scheme was further enhanced by the fact that Reiners, a former Philip Morris employee, had done business with one of the princi-Philip Morris," the Justice Department said

after an intensive three-day, TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Belgium 45.00 Cenada 2 02 Cyprus 0.6975 Denmark 8.50

Finland 6.98

Hong Kong 11.65 India 53 25

Norway 9.50 Portugal 227.50 Saudi Arabia 5.70

French throw weight behind Airbus rejig scribing the French group's | manufacturing work is par | arrangement is both ineffi- | lar the mark and the French chief executive as saying that | celled out among the part | cient and cumbersome, which | frame.

Mark Milner European Business Editor

► HANGES to the corporate structure at Airbus industrie this summer appear more likely, with France's Aerospatiale reported to have thrown its weight behind reform.

British Aerospace and Germany's Deutsche Aerospace (Dasa) have both called for a different structure in an atternut to make the European commercial jet maker more competitive in the face of the threat posed by US manufacturers, notably Boeing.

wire service quoted an Aero-

he was "completely in favour of this: he's even said that it should be done as soon as

On Tuesday, Norbert Lammert, Germany's co-ordinator for the aerospace industry, warned: "The success of Air-bus is certain in the long term only if the partners agree right now to an efficient, international competitive struc-

British Aerospace has also made no secret of its desire to see changes to the structure of Airbus Industrie, which at present consists of a groupement d'intérêt economique -where Airbus handles the spatiale spokesman as de sales and marketing and the

celled out among the part-cient and cumbersome, which franc.

bus, BAe a further 20 per cent and Spain's Casa the remaining 4 per cent.

Aerospatiale and Dasa each | ventional corporate strucaccount for 38 per cent of Air- ture. Airbus' competitive edge has also been dulled by the fall in the value of the dol-lar — in which aircraft are Critics have argued that the | priced - against, in particu-

Guardian Live Wire debate

TUC General Secretary John Monks will be our guest for the second Guardian Live Wire Debate on the Internet next Sunday from 7pm to 8pm. Advance questions can be sent to: john.monks@guardian.co.uk. Log on to the debate at:

http://www.guardian.co.uk/livewire

have noted that change could rum into political interests — Aerospatiale, for example, is However, there are signs that the French government may be facing up to the conse-

ready looking at possible

changes and is due to present

its conclusions at the end of

May or early June. The indus-trial logic for change has been

widely accepted but observer:

tion. It has thrown its weight behind a restructuring of the defence industry by urging a merger between Aerospatiale and the privately owned Dassault group.

He went on "Requiring the company to meet the costs of

circulation could be unfair to shareholders as a whole, and

a group of shareholders pro-

posing a resolution might rep resent a tiny faction of the

"But if shareholders are

able to submit their resolu-

tion in time, this concern is

The past two years have seen an increase in the number of agms disrupted by pro-testors. Last month. Hanson's

agm was interrupted by envi-

group's mining activities in

Lloyds' egm, called to approve the merger with TSB, was suspended after a string

of questions from shareholders opposed to the bank's pol-

in the most famous incident

of all, the British Gas agm List

May was moved to the 10.000 seater Docklands Arena, to accommodate the hundreds of

shareholders opposed to chief executive Cedric Brown's pay

But Ann Robinson, director-general of the National Association of Pension

Funds, said boards should bear most responsibility for

controlling agms. "The be-haviour of directors and their

acy on Third World debt.

the limited States.

voting equity

at ways to beat

agm rowdies

HK Government is look-

ing at ways of limiting the disruption of com-

any annual general meetings like those demonstra-

tions seen recently at British Aerospace. British Gas and

were "unsatisfactory". He acknowledged, however, that it would be "difficult" to legis-

late against single-issue pres-sure groups, which "plagued"

some meetings.
But, Mr Taylor told the In-

stitute of Chartered Secretar-ies and Administrators in

London, there were ways of improving the access shareholders had to company

boards at agms. He said the Government

was reviewing sections of the Companies Act. which allow

tions placed on an agm's agenda, but which currently

require them to meet the cost of doing so. The Government was also

mulling over a trade and industry select committee sug-gestion that companies

should bear the cost of circu-lating shareholder resolu-tions where they were sup-

ported by enough investors.

ohn Taylor, the corporate affairs minister, said yester-day that in many cases agms



In the swim . . . Land Rover's Jungle Track demonstration ground at Solihull opens to the public today as part of national Science, Engineering and Technology week PHOTOGRAPH FRANCE.

Blair takes on late payers

EADER of the Oppo-sition Tony Blair sterday laid claim to Labour as the party of small business as he pledged to intro-duce a legal right for companies to charge interest on late payment of commercial debt. "I would argue today, what a few years ago would have seemed a bold claim, that it is Labour, and not the Conservatives, who appreciate and

uinely dynamic economy." His speech was warmly welcomed by some representatives of small and medium-sized firms who praised his courage and "useful" policies on late payment, Others, such as the Confederation of British Industry and the British Chambers of Commerce, ra-main vehemently opposed to Labour's late payment pro-

He said: "We need a society in which we don't have to choose between old-fashioned

business voters and follows the Prime Minister's promise last week to continue cutting red tape and to take action soon on late payment. Mr Major said the third competitiveness white paper, due to be published in early June, would contain further measures to help smaller firms while Trade and Industry Sec-

"Paying your bills late brings a financial gain to the defaulter. We need to create a situation in which late payment is not worth it."

The statutory right to interest should only apply to payment by companies above a certain threshold but government and public agencies

tween Opposition and the The Growth Agenda, a pack- and it would be up to the cred- Otherwise, we're all pissing Government to woo smaller age of measures aimed at itor to decide whether to use in the wind." itor to decide whether to use it. "We will consult on the best method of implementing

> panies will simply end up stuff," and that New Labour pursuing other small was "definitely shaping up". common fear that small com-

this proposal, so that small firms gain the maximum ad-

Stan Mendham, chief executive of the Forum of Private Business pressure group, said he was delighted with the

Other measures in The Commenting on Mr Blair's Growth Agenda include: overtures, Teresa Graham. a member of the Government's ternet site to give easy access enhancing the Business

tone of Mr Blair's speech, that it had been "courageous News in brief

lan King

Lloyds Bank.

Forsyth jury considers verdict

THE trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, former personal assistant to ex-Polly Peck chairman Asil Nadir, was adjourned last night after jurors failed to reach a verdict on their first afternoon of deliberations. Mrs Forsyth, 59, of Great Dunmow, Essex, denies two charges of laundering 2400,000 allegedly stolen by Mr Nadu

Earlier. Mr Justice Tucker told the jurors not to be "dazzled by details of the personal wealth which emerged during the five-week trial. He said jurors had to be certain that the money had been stolen by Mr Nadir, and that Mrs Forsyth handled it dishonestly knowing it had been stolen. — Ion King

Britannic climbs 80pc

BRITANNIC Assurance yesterday unveiled a near 80 per cent rise in pre-tax profits at 263.5 million for 1985. But the figures included investment gains, and the operating profit rose by only 7 per cent to \$50.6 million. The group said its 1996 sales had been lower than the previous year, but they were now recovering. It has completed a full review of its business and has already announced its withdrawal from the motor insurance market. Later this year, it will make its first forzy boto the health insurance sector with a critical illness policy. - Pauline Springett

MARLEY, the building materials group, has agreed to sell part of its automotive division for £53.2 million, and is in discussions on the possible sale of the rest. The board decided to withdraw from

the possible sale of the rest. The board decided to within a trom the business because the increasingle global nature of the auto industry requiring ever increasing levels of investment.

Profits for 1985 fell 8.8 per cent to £43.6 million, as operating margins were squeezed by a slowdown in the UK and US, which weakened demand for its concrete, clay, and plastic products. Chairman Sir George Russell said: "The prospects for 1996 depend to a significant extent on the level of activity in the housing and refurbishment markets in the UK and US." — Toro May

Harrisons retreats

HARRISONS & Crosfield, the chemicals and building materials group, produced a pre-tax profit of £119.6 million last year, com-pared to £236.7 million in 1994. The figures were in line with analysts expectations — the 1994 profit was boosted increased by an exceptional profit on disposals. Chief executive Bill Turcase as an exceptional profit on disposals. Chief executive Bill Turcas said the company had up to £250 million to spend and was keen to make bolt-on acquisitions for its Harcross UK timber merchant business. It was also interested in strategic purchases to strengthen its pigment-related chemicals operations.

The company's plans for Harcross follow a year of rationalisation which resulted in the closure of 14 of its outlets and the acquisition of four branches. Some 600 jobs were cut and Mr Turcan declined to say whether more of the remaining 3500 jobs were under threat this year. — Pauline Springett

Brownfield' threat

THOUSANDS of new jobs could be created across the North of England by restoring abandoned "brownfield" sites to industrial use, the Country Landowners Association claimed yesterday. But

proposals threatening "horrendous" clean-up costs for polluted land were discouraging developers, said the CLA.

New owners faced being forced to pay pollution bills where original culprits could not be traced. Offences might have been committed a century ago, said the CLA. Yorkshire and Humber-side regional secretary Ian Kibble said doubts raised by the new Side regional secretary an Kidole said doubts raised by the new Environment Act proposals were forcing developers to look instead at greenfield sites, increasing pressure on the country-side. He called for a governmental review of legal proposals, to devise "incentives rather than penalties".— Martyn Halsall

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International Internet Name Registry

retary lan Lang yesterday pledged to deal with tightenshould be required to pay their bills within 30 days and ing up payment times in the of the Institute of Chartered Links network; Accountants, said later: state control and the Govern publish information about "Let's hope this is the start of a creation of a database a real and consistent commit-listing British exporters; ment doing nothing — failed Fighting to regain the iniaissez faire." Mr Blair's latest declara offensive, Mr Blair yesterday payment practices. A statutory right to interest

OUTLOOK/ Larry Elliott on a report showing that Germany and Ireland are better at putting ideas into practice

British good in lab but still failing to make it

comedy. The Man in the White Suit. A talented scientist (Alec Guinness) discovers a new compound for making indestructible cloth but is prevented — by a coalition of a world-beating product.

Ealing's satirical message has been replicated in the real world many times since the film was released 45 years

igo. Britain has a reputation for being brilliant at invention, i.e. raw scientific discovery — but a third division outfit when it comes to innovation, i.e. actually putting the ideas

A three-country study released yesterday underlines the extent of Britain's prob-

tion in post-war Brit-ain was aptly summed up by the Ealing per cent of UK firms introduced a new or improved product, against 71 per cent in Germany and 68 per cent in

Ireland. Small UK firms had particularly low innovation rates management and union Among firms with fewer than power — from turning it into 100 employees, 56 per cent brought out a new product or upgraded an old one, against per cent in Ireland.

If anything, the survey under-recorded Germany's lead. The period under review saw a sharp post-reunifica-tion downturn in the German sconomy, a turning point in the UK business cycle and strong growth in the Irish economy.

As luck would have it, the Labour leader Tony Blair chose yesterday to go wooing lem. Between 1991 and 1983 at the small business vote. The survey was undertaken of details of why the UK's inno-3,500 manufacturing firms in vation record is relatively the UK, Ireland and Germany poor add weight to his analyStrathclyde and the ifo-Insti-

tute. Munich, two of Labour's

HE history of innova- to test their record for inno- sis of Britain's industrial un-tion in post-war Brit- varion. The findings are chas- desperformance. According to ain was aptly summed tening, if familiar. Only 61 research by Queen's Universing innovation in the UK.

HE history of innova- to test their record for inno- sis of Britain's industrial un-desperformance. According to skill shortages — are hamper-countries, although the focus and 17 per cent in Ireland. product innovation were

> Who innovates? their employee numbers. 📑 UK 📮 Ireland 📳 Germany

500 plos

small and large companies,

The bigger UK manufactur-ers tended to cite the risk involved in developing a new product line, while smaller outfits emphasised the lack of innovation finance. In terms of skills, the differ-

ence between Britain's family saloon approach and Ger-many's Rolls-Royce system of industrial training and high-quality apprenticeships is reflected in the number of new products being developed.

Around one third of British firms said that a lack of skills had hindered their product innovation, compared to only one fifth in Germany. Among manufacturers with

more than 500 employees, the gap was even wider. Almost gap was even wider. Almost opment in UK, German and dependence opment in UK, German and Irish Manufacturing: Northern significantly con-strained by skill shortages, Road, Belfast, BT7 1NJ. Price against only 14 per cent of LEW strained by skill shortages, Road against only 14 per cent of ESU.

ing UK firms rising 7 per cent a year against 5.1 per cent for those who kept faith with their old products.

It concluded that the efforts

Marley divisional sale by the Government and others had led to some im-

product innovation is strongly linked to business growth, with sales of innovat-

provements in Britain's training and industrial finance, but added: "Many UK firms which is less conducive to innovation than that in which German firms operate. Longterm action to address these issues will be necessary if the level of innovative activity of UK businesses is to be raised.

Product Innovation and Devel-

£100 million. Nevertheless, the rumours

saw the shares in both Allied and Bass rise on the day. Al-

lied's quote closed the day 6p

up at 497p. Bass rose 6p to close at 749p. Should Bass succeed in tak-

ing over Allied's 50 per cent

stake it would leapfrog Scot-

tish & Newcastle to become

Avocet to mine London Bass faces heady prospect

VOCET Mining, a gold and tungsten mining group with interests in Peru, Malaysia, Portugal and the United States, has con-firmed plans for an Easter flotation on the London market, raising £10 million and valu-

London-based pure mining company fully quoted on the London market.
Avocet, which was set up in

lyn Waller, a former execu-

tive of South African mining strengths lie in gold mining and industrial conglomerate — it fought off rivals, includ-London at the behest of insti-tutional investors in Canada, where it is quoted on the Van-

couver stock exchange.

Announcing details of the flotation, Mr Waller said it had always been his ambition to bring the company to mar-ket in London, but that a Caing it at £65 million.

Apart from RTZ-CRA, the world's biggest mining group, Avocet will be the only British-owned, British-run and ler, together with Avocet's

ler, together with Avocet's chairman, Nigel McNair Scott, another former execu-tive at Anglo American, will own around 21 per cent of the

ing Australian giant BHP, to win its main Malaysian

licence - it is also emerging as a key tungsten producer. Mr Waller said world tungsten prices, which have been depressed over recent years due to cheap Chinese and Russian exports being "dumped" on world markets. were set to recover sharply. Now there is a shortage as Chinese stocks have dried up. Avocet is also investing several million dollars in its

Peruvian gold activities, tive at Anglo American, will where it employs only local own around 21 per cent of the company.

Although Avocet's main where it employs only local ible deal a long way off.

It has long been predicted that Allied would dispose of analyst said last night: "Annegotiating table before the its stake in its joint venture other problem is that Allied deal was allowed.

Sarah Whitelstoom

ASS and Allied Domecq yesterday refused to comment on mounting speculation about the poss-ible multi-million-pound sale of Allied's half share in Carls berg Tetley, the UK's thirdlargest brewing group.

Both companies main-

tained total silence during the day. But City brokers argued that the incumbent hurdles including extremely complex difficulties with the competition authorities — put a posswines, spirits and pubs retailing — not traditional But senior industry insiders urged calm yesterday, in-sisting that no deal is yet in sight. One City expert said:
"These sort of things take

months rather than weeks or Brokers pointed out that any move between the large drinks houses arouses in-tense interest from competi-

tion authorities including the Office of Fair Trading and the

the UK's largest brewer. But

with the Danish brewing | simply wants too much." City giant Carlsberg. Allied's core business now centres around | stake is worth around

if it failed to secure the competition regulators' support before taking the plunge, it would almost certainly face

Dan Atkinson

AROL GALLEY, deputy chairman of Mercury Asset Management, has found that those St Valentine's Day bouquets from Forte share-holders, thankful for her role in horning out Sir Rocco and selling out to Granada, have been replaced by hate mail.

Poison-pen letters have arrived, we hear, from assorted chambermaids, bellboys and others now feeling the lash of the new management.

shareholder value is all with celebs such as Newcasabout.

| With celebs such as Newcastle's Kelth Gillespie and is floating this new British | Wednesday never existed. | Iton in the last year. Furfor the Isle of Man.



EXT WEEK sees the he lash of the new nanagement.

Some people, it seems, ust don't understand what just don't understand what | the Haymarket, London. | ham, a former executive | for that matter) to convince

Manchester United's Lee | venture; also on the board | One omission, though, is | thermore, on at least a half Sharpe. According to the publicity there will be a hologram of Terry Venables and a walking, talking wax-work of George Best. "There should be a few gen-uine bar-room brawls there too," was the reaction of one City analyst.

brought you Domino business at Dallas University. No, really. rotisserie chickens comes a new concept — Bar Hades. OK, so it's actually called South Beach Café, but anywhere offering "the latest eating fashions from America" and such treats as fresh wheat-grass cocktails ("said to clear toxins") is bound to suffer infernal associations. Tom Burn-

if you needed any further deterrent, the cafés are de-scribed as "a fun place to meet, talk, plan or just hang out, maybe listening to live music or surfing the Internet". Mr Burnham is adjunct professor of fran-ROM the man who chising and international

> RM Revisited: The publication of Politics
> and the Pound, the book by the FT's Philip Stephens about Britain's glorious liberation from the Everlasting Recession Machine, is a welcome antidote to the attempts by the Government (and Labour,

that when at lunchtime on a dozen occasions during September 16 the panicstricken cabal of ministers and officials decided to put up interest rates to 15 per cent as a gambler's last throw, nobody thought to mention it to the Treasury press office. Staff there evil, relentless evil etc etc. only found out when a journalist rang to ask if it were

clude Deathkeep; "unwould be appreciated by

this week's presentation by Pearson of its figures to the City, the mastermind of the group's expansion, manag-ing director Frank Barlow, screwed up the slide pre-sentation. Unspeakable

"UESDAY'S Budget, while not exactly exciting, did manage to in-Son's 1994 purchase of "educational" crease tax allowances while moving Government finances into surplus for the video-game company first time in five years. Mindscape (products in- Widows, parents, electricity consumers and borrowspeakable evil, relentless ers of state mortgages and evil, pure evil") seems to tourist loans all did well. carry the sort of jinx that Too bad for Three Pints's long-suffering mainland the Mindscape clientele.
Bought for £330 million.
Mindscape has lost £7 milGelling, Treasury minister

Underside

syth jury

widers verdig

by alarmount of SIR

CONTRACTOR ASSESSMENT

profession to call

· Secretaria

Nwaamis can win the beer money for Dunlop

MARK OF ESTEEM (3yo):

he is rated another poten-tial money-spinner for Go-dolphin. (S bin Suroor). PIVOTAL (3yo): Notched

two easy wins late last sea-

son in minor company and is just the type with which

his shrewd trainer excels.
(M Prescott).

Newmarket. By Sadler's Wells out of Ob So Sharp,

he is certainly bred to win a

A Derby entry, Jackson Hill came home a smooth winner

of a seven furlongs Doncaster

maiden race late last season

winner Orange Hill, and Jack-

son Hill can only improve over longer distances this year. Clearly well regarded.

3.40 INTERMENT DIAMOND VISION HANDICAP SYO ST DE,106 31134 PASSINGS FOR LIFE (284) (D) G Leves 9-7
25/031- POLLY GOLIGHTLY (139) (DD) M Bissings 9-4
8611-11 EXYSTAL WAX (32) (D) T Burgs 8-2

516214- MESS BIOWIO (1 72) (D) J BATTY 9-0 251000- BRANSEY HOPE (1 68) C Fairheiry 8-0 16000- BHP DUTPRESS (1 60) (D) G Moore 8-13 251039- WIRLEM MOUNTAIN (2005) (D) M Hesseo-Dins 6-12 254- BRANJORIS BOSK (257) A Barby 8-11

110254- LETTLE HOOGORS (148) (D) C Dever I-8 25085 U-MO-HARRY (146) (D) R Hollesbed 6-25-M PRINCELY SOUND (20) (D) M Set 8-6 600-011 CHEMCAST (84) (D) D Nickels 8-3 0006-ED/S FOLLY (182) S Dow 8-3

88173- SECRET YOUCHER (180) (D) & Hale 943220- AMY LEDGE (1440 (D) Capt J Wisson B-8 -

516 6500- OPENING CHORDS (171) (D) New M. Reven TOP FORM TIPE: Panelon For Life S, Princely Securi 7, Che

1285: Perissel 3 7 10 C Yangse 10-1 (St Browling) 14 rea Butlings 8-1 Procesy Sound, 7-1 Polly Goldgidy, 8-1 Watch Mountum, Cher For Life, Krystel Max.

(Legislad St, AM) (Legislad St, AM) (Legislad St, AM) (Legislad Mount's Albh Cassad Intidars, atlart 2 ost, outpaced time terrions, art of 7.71

4.10 TRANSPIRENCE EXPRESS HANDICAP TVO 1rs 2f Cords D4.175

61- JACKSON HILL (138) (C) R Charles 8-4 3211- BONAN GOLD (122) R Hanson 9-2

054-5 EAGLE CANYON (2:1) B Hambury 8-11 55313- DEADLINE THEE (1:32) Mrs M Reveloy 6 65261- ROSE OF SERSINA (1:54) (D) M Bell 8-6 5-1 DOCKLANDS LIND (2:0) B McMath 8-6

S-I DOCKLANDS UNIO (200) B Mellerh S-6
3040-D EXACTLY (12) J Fym 8-6
14-3; BURRET OFFICHING (23) (D) C Binton S-3
50054- WELCOMER ROYALE (191) M Tompdies S-2
280-SERGEROR (170) Men M Revely S-1
3120; DARCIMO CAVALIER (191) R Polificated S-1
3120; DARCIMO CAVALIER (191) F Holifochedd S-1
500- STRATERIC PLOY (142) Men J Parosine S-0
11443 CHIBA CASTLE (19) (D) (BP) P Helsian 7-3
(00- MORKHERH MOTTO (142) Men J Revision 7-1

1995: hundring (Lies) 3 6 7 Per Eddary 100-30 (J H M Goodes) 18 year

4.40 MELTON WOOD MAIDEN STAKES TYD 1m CA,078

0- PLONENTENO (187) B HILL 9-0

90022900 M Channon 9-0 5-P CATHEFINERS CHOICE (78) J Bellief 9-0

POLINESSO B Hits 9-0
SHOULDBEGGEY W Most 9-0

D-Q TEROLS TYPIANT (16) Mrs A Swinbank 9-0 .

2- ABRLEON JAME (208) J Gosden 8-9 5- CRYSTAL WARROW (186) D Nichells 8-9 50- DUNGEON PRINCETS (180) M Channon 8-8

CO. POLISH LADY (140) W Barker 8-8

DI- COURTING DANGER (176) D Gandolio 9-0.

Bettings 9-2 Jackson Hill, 6-7 Roman Gold, 8-1 Spason, Octoby, Ylpstowde Elses, 10-1 Rose Of Sibera, Bornt Offenng, 12-1 Chaia Castle, Sin Clarks PORMI CURDE - ROMAN GOLD: Lad over 31 out, run de exrangly, won by \$1 from CLIALITY (gave 32b)

good). Backische Ball. Led entering besit burtineg, ist Kerry Reng TR (Domesser 7f, Gd-Fm). BALKISCHE BALL Led enter der 3f das, comfortably, ist Barnot Si Hagfield 1m2, AMF, MORELIMENTE MESSEL Led 47 das, soon dasst, it Polar Sprit 12 (Woberhampton tentiby AMF). ROSE OM SIBMINGER Roden out (Inst burtion), wich by 19 from Northern Soot (Nothinghem 1m2). Gd-Fm RAMING Tracked finaders, oth much room 2 dar, stor on seen pace, 4th of 11.4 Berhalt Wed-A-Alexande (Inst

lers, third imp the straight, no eatra when 4th of 9, byn 651, to Flyhaber (Lakcester 11th 25

onen, 11-4 Astricon Jane, 5-1 Insyabi. 12-1 Village King, Fell Thromie, Rozentino. 14-16 ratasa.

hawa (Goodwood Yt. Gol-Fu) Albh Edged ledi and no antra well over 11 dus, 8th of 21, 41 behind Germans (Diocessier 71, Gol-Fu) Alb (GMC Chead leaders for side, one pace over 21 out, 71h of 23, 71 behind Sheamit (Docessier 1a

● Blinkered for the first time — PLUMPTON: 2.25 Just-Mana-

Mou; 3.25 Neverold, Woodyard; 4.00 Star Of David.

WINCANTON: 2.45 Supreme Music; 3.50 Greenaures Rose.

ED'S FOLLTT-Lustes amende nome in 2nd (swerded race), 11 behind Montay Zawly (Lingdield St. AW).
CHEMICAST: Meeded close frome, lin 2nd (swerded race), 11 behind Montay Zawly (Lingdield St. AW).
PASSION FOR LUTE Desputed lend, needed 21 out, 4h, 51 behind Prace Asia (Spoors St. Gal),
KENYSTAL MAX: Houseway to lised over 12 out, pushed 6pt, won by 32 mon Mot Canind (Lingdield 71, AW).

on only his second outing. His dam is the Cesarewitch

good race. (J Gosden).

Ron Cox looks at opening day of the Flat and highlights future prospects

OHN DUNLOP, champion trainer last Flat season, is wasting no time declaring his intentions for the new cam-

paign. He is a comparatively rare visitor at the opening Doncas-ter fixture, so the hint looks worth taking when Dunlop runs Nwaamis in today's Stones Bitter Doncaster Mile. Fifth behind Pennekamp in last season's 2,000 Guineas, Nwaamis could be a cut above the opposition he encounters here, much as one admires

the consistent Penny Drops or respects the chance of Geoff Wragg's First Island. A pelvic injury cut short Nwaamis's three-year-old career and he has not been seen on a racecourse since finishing seventh behind Spectrum in the Irish Guineas.

But all the vibes from Arundel indicate Nwaamis (3.05) is ready to make up for lost time. He looked really good when winning his only race as a two-year-old and at one stage was rated a better pros-pect than last season's crack

miler Bahri. A Bahri-type programme could be on the cards for Nwaamis this year provided the Dayjur colt fulfils expecta-

Ten to follow

CAP JULUCA (4yo): Something of a rarity, a big-race winner not Arab-owned. Progressed to win the Cambridgeshire under 9st 10lb and should hold his own in Listed and Pattern com-pany. (Trained R Charlton). COLDSTREAM (3yo): Will fly the flag for Godolphin after winning a Newcastle (7f) maiden for Luca Cumani. Has plenty of im-provement in him. (S bin

HELICON (3yo): Another who has wintered in Dubai. Won well at Newmarket when trained by Henry Cecil and could develop into a Derby prospect. (S

bin Suroor).
LARROCHA (4yo): May find the 10 furlongs of next week's Dubai World Cup on the sharp side, but watch out for her in good middle distance races later on. (S bin Suroor). MAIDEN CASTLE (3yo): Unraced last year, but promising judged on his

home work. A dark horse, for now. (J Gosden).

Roger Charlton is another trainer not renowned as an early starter, but he reports his horses more forward than usual owing to a new all-weather gallop at his Beck-hampton base and that augurs well for Jackson Hill (4.10) in the Transpennine Express Handicap.

Pat Eddery's mount can take this on the way to better

It is always a gamble whether recent all-weather Touched off by Alhaarth prior to trotting up at Goodwood, this Darshaan track winners will reproduce their form back on turf, but the risk looks worth taking with Princely Sound (3.40) in the Mitsubishi Diamond colt is reported to have thrived since wintering in Dubai. (S bin Suroor).
MICK'S LOVE (3yo):
Bought out of Mark Johnston's yard after winning
both his races over a mile,

pegging back.
The danger is Passion For Life. Gelded since last year, the Epsom raider has repor-Whatever happens today he should be noted for an early

M Prescott).

RESTRUCTURE (4yo): A half-brother to Alderbrook, who improved with age, this Danehill colt should add to last season's three wins. (Mrs J Cecil).

SACHO (3yo): Already backed for the Derby, Sacho caught the eye when second on his only start at Newmarket. By Sadler's would be complete without a fancied Jack Berry-trained runner. This year Fredrik The Fierce (2.35) carries Cockerham hopes, and word is that the Puissance colt is well ahead of his galloping companions at this stage.

runnings of this first test for two-year-olds and you can be sure Fredrick The Fierce will know what is required.

Barry Hills has withdrawn his intended Brocklesby run-ner Cadeaux Cher, who can reportedly go a bit, but can get on the scoresheet with the well-galloned. Polinesso.

Vision Handicap.
Michael Bell's speedy colt runs off the same mark as when scooting in by two lengths at Lingfield last month. He showed promise on turf last year and, from his high draw, could take some

tedly sparkled in recent gal-lops, including when part-nered by Pat Eddery. No Brocklesby Stakes

Berry has won two recent runnings of this first test for

well-galloped Polinesso (4.40) in the Melton Wood Maiden for three-year-olds.

wis (5) 1

.A Daily (5) 6 .L Heroton (6

R Cookrass 18 T Willness 17 M Heavy (5) 6 P Robbisson 2 J. Characck 18 J. Quins 14

...R Haghes S ...J Fortune 8 ...B Featon 12 ...G Certer 7

15 الأحالا في

Sees O'Hell (5)



Grand chance . . . Rough Quest back on the National trail and favourite for the Aintree

A P McGov +

Wincanton National Hunt programme

2.15 MITTER FIELD SPORTS SOCIETY MADDEL MURBLE 2m 02,000

LLERSFORD (22) N Genetae 5-11-2 PDOWN EXPRESS (116) N Chanca (NROSE LAD (22) D Nicholson 6-11-2

D SLISTIEN DAY (EO) F Alnor 6-11-2 D CAMBRANO'S LAD (14) F Alnor 5-11-2 EV FABULOUS MITOTO (14) IS Sunders 5-P FORTAMENOUSE (16) G Baiding 6-11-J HEADWIND (68) J GRand 6-11-2 D MILLESSPORD (25) N Grands 5-11-2

68 PERROSE (AND CZZ) D Nethologo 6-11-2 0-23 SOLDER-6 (693) Positer 6-11-2 06 STEER POINT (188) R Free 5-13-2 (26-0 STEER POINT (189) H Rose 8-13-2 (26-0 STEER POINT (189) H Rose 8-13-1 D NAZZLES (116) M Gampon 4-10-1 BOOMALIAL Mass I Bower 4-10-1 SECRET SPERMO P Hedger 4-10-5 0 STEEPORMO (24 A Button 4-10-8

2.45 жений циватоск ноисе силае 22 от са,734

D-02117 TRYING AGAIN (8) D Genotic 5-12-5
24-2322 CAPSINITARY (14) (8F) J King 7-11-3
24-232 CAPSINITARY (14) (8F) J King 7-11-3
25-2420 CHR WIZZER (15) J Author 7-11-3
25-3420 CHR WIZZER (15) J Author 7-11-3
25-3420 CHR WIZZER (15) F Hodges 6-11-3
26 WILD WIXTEER (14) R Hodges 6-11-3
273331 AMARGO (N) POR 5-11-3

0 WILD SEATTHEN (74) IN TODGES 5-11-3
(33341 DAMAS (6) IN POS 5-11-1
(8-49P LYRICAL SEAL (31) D Brench Davis 5-10-12
(P ROSE GARDEN (14) R POCCE 1-10-12
34/PF-0 STAR OF KURLAIT (14) N Thomsos 12-10-12

3.50 STRUTT & PARKER MARRY ONLY HOVICE HURGE 2m OF CLARS 1222 CAYINA (86) (CD) (BP) N Grabem 5-11-2 B BRIGHAB'S NAMIY (14) P Ainer 6-11-2 (2000 BOSITA BLAKEMY (S) G Briding 6-11-2 P DUCKLIBE (128) C Mitchell 6-11-2

000-0 EMBISTYMON (10) J Multim 5-11-2
2-507 GENINI MEST (83) Mrs P Durisid 5-11-2
2-507 GENINI MEST (83) Mrs P Durisid 5-11-2
00-0 GENERALORIS ROSE (83) G Ham 5-11-2
12 HONEY NEW MODO (10) I Brown 6-11-2
13 JAJINTY JUNE (92) B Existy 5-11-2
14 JAJINTY JUNE (92) B Existy 5-11-2
15 Mrs NESS SORWART (14) N Thomson 6-11-2
15 Mr OLD GHAM (70) A FOREY 7-11-2
0-JUPEDOPES COMMEN (87) R Hawker 5-11-7
0-JUPEDOPES COMMEN (87) R Hawker 5-11-7
0-GENES TURBERT (17) R B GENERAL 5-11-1
00-09 UP THE TREEPO (89) P FAIRM 7-11-2

TOP FORM TIPS: Cavica 8, Glengartii Girl 7, Honeybed Wood 6

4.20 MARYLAND FAMES HOVICE HURTERS CHASE (Ame

10P17-2 CARRIGIES LAD (15) bits J Red 9-12-0 P697-2 DESCRIPTS DARCES (200) bits A Hewing SA37-3-FOUR REFERS (200) bits I. Redmar 11-12-/-64320 GREAT UNCLE (16) J Datasee 8-12-0

1-23 STILL IN BUSINESS (14) (0) (BF) R Barber 3-12-6 33M6-F BANG ON TARRET (20) J Bowen 6-12-0 PP-735-BOLD BBP (327) Mos 5 Waugh 11-12-0 3/F-SRIGHT BURNES (300) C Seeguing 11-12-1

P HAYE BUSTER (14) A M Steel 11-12-0

55(51-3 KINO'S TREASURE (143) (BP) | Buiding 7-12-0

62(61-2 KINO'S TREASURE (143) (BP) | Buiding 7-12-0

POTONO - DAKLARIUS WORD (715) E Roydes 7-12-0

ALPINE SONG Miss V Stephens 11-11-0

TOP FORM TIPS: SIE in Sessions 8, Carrigmen Led 7, King's Tressure 6

04-312F BIG STRAND (22) (D) (BF) M P.(0 7-12-0 (06-0) TEBN AP (6) (D) R Stronge 6-11-4 46621 SASH CHIL (27) (D) Fundan 8-11-3 1867U NAWALLAN SAN (22) (D) A 7 (msil 6-11-0

2012-43 JOSEPRA (112) M 15-2-7-8-5-5-5-5
2212 MANOLETE (14) (D) (BF) Urs U Sons 5-10-5
251 FAISTING (14) (CD) F HOSE 4-10-5
3CS, CRACKING PROSPECT (19) B Militae 5-10-0

4.50 CHANTOCK HANDICAP HURBLE 2m 02,952

Bettings 2-1 Caving, 9-2 Giengard Guf, 6-1 Honeyted Klood, 10-1 Torret, 12-1 Gemini Mei, 14-1 Youn Tess, My Dio China, 16-1 Toksame Ledy

Bettings 9-2 Cerregees Lad. 5-1 Still to Business. 8-1 Alog & Treasure, Foor fovers, 8-1 Ocklands Wort Beng On Target, 10-1 Drew, to Dancer

000-0 EMBISTYMON (19) J Matins 5-11-2

TOP FORM TIPE: Trying Again 6, Daniel 7, Capemeny 6 Bettings 4-6 Trying Again, 4-1 Decrea, 11-2 Capemaray, II-1 Supi Frazi, Wild Weather, 25-1 Lyncal Seal 3.15 STEWART TORY MEMORIAL HYCAP CHASE (Arms

9 22055 L'UGINO PRÉ (17) À Barrow 12-10-0 TOP PORM TIPE: Poll Of Pire S, Beaurepake 7, Real Propers (

Quest back in **National** picture

Ken Oliver

OUGH QUEST is back in the reckoning for the Martell Grand National at Aintree on Sat-

urday week. He was initially ruled out of the race after finishing second to Imperial Call in the Gold Cup last Thursday but trainer Terry Casey says the gelding could well take his chance.

"We are now considering the Grand National for Rough Quest," said Casey yesterday. "I have cantered him and he is really well

and in great form.
"I have had discussions with owner Andrew Wates and we have decided to con-sider the National. We will

make a final decision at the weekend and not keep people hanging on."
The Irish National had been the original target but

been the original target but Casey added: "The Grand National looks a very good opportunity for him. He will have lumps of weight in the Irish race and he is better going left-handed." The reinstatement of Rough Quest, who has 9st 12lb, will provide a big boost to the National which has suffered from the defec-tion of Jodami, Dublin Flyer and Royal Athlete in recent days. Ladbrokes have amended their betting and make Rough Quest 4-1 favourite, followed by 6-1 Lo Stregone, 10-1 Deep Bramble and Young

Doncaster card with guide to the form

102233- GAKBORY (183) Mag I. Sciel 14-10 2336-0 MARTES OF THE SCHEME (241) M Hammon 5-1255- CHRISTANCE (167) Mrs II Revely 16-6-6 2-1255- CHARGO (7) 505 R Hollenhed 5-6-6 10023- ROCK GROUP (238) J Pearce 4-8-3 47-11 0200-2 HAYA YA KERAAH (48) N Babbaga 4-7-10 0000-2 SIAH WYR (280) K Barbaga 4-7-10

	CAP 1m 2f 60ude C3.964	HOWER SOUPPERST LADIES
201	00121- FARRY KIMORIT (110) (III) A Hamon 4-11-7 00224- WIESTIENN GERBERAL (152) Mes M Milligen 5-11-3	
201 202	013024- WESTERN GENERAL (152) Mas M Milligan 5-11-3	Y Haynes 17
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	DEM TIPS: Califor King 8, Caribo Sticants 7, Cingue 6	

ut to SEVENTEENS LUCKY (goe 20s fYork tent 66). ALONG KONG Led over 31 out until headed closing stages, 11 ard to Pover Keen Mich ART). REATYARIs Led 11 out to stacks fost, ac extex, ato, 21 int 61 Volunior (Lingsfeld final, ANY). CLADARIE Improved performer on all-westier, percelutagia munt caste most to bt Noble Canons

Channel 4 Beitings 2-1 Fredrik The Fierce, 3-1 Muches, 6-1 Mujore, M T Vessel, 7-1 Indian Spark, 8-1 Joint Vester by Fortywisks.

Channel 4

3.05 STORES BRYER DONCASTER MILE 1:0 2:12,206 J → STORME BITTER DONCASTER MAIL TO ATTLEDON

21/25- CADMANIS TRYST (1901) E DURING 45-12

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12/25- FRIST MALAND (140) (50) Mars G Wellward 5-5-12

12/25-13- WHARK (140) R Wenger 45-12 1986: Alcourt (Steel: 4 & 12 J Corroll 12-4 Li H M Coming) 9 rae ma, 3-1 Penny Drope, 7-2 First Island, 5-1 Cadeaux Tryst, Wilers, 6-1 Band On The Rus.

Bridgwater (11-1); 2, Flow (7-1); 3, Rayel Phper (7-2); 9-4 Fav Dominie. 10 rist. Ni; 21 (M Pipe) Tots: 512.90; 23.00; E1-70; E1-50. Oasi F: 23.40. Trio: 240.30. GSF: 477.19. Tricast 2294.20. Tricast 2294.20. Tricast 2294.20. Tricast 2295.20. Tricast 240. C1.30. Oasi F: 25.50. CSF: 24.51. O. Garadollo; Tots: 22.00; E1-40. C1.30. Oasi F: 25.50. CSF: 24.51. O. Tricast two races were abandoned due to poor visibility.

LUDLOW 2.60 (2m Mille): 1, MM-LOU-AMD, Mr J Culloly (9-4 fev) 2, Tadellel (9-11: 5, Lines (6-1): 17 ran 7 35: (Mass H Knight) Tota 22 60: \$1.50: \$1.50: \$2,70 Qual F: \$11.60

Trice St. 9.0 CSF: C14.74.

2.30 (2m: 44 Cht; 1, THE CAMMENIE, AP McCey (13-8 tay); 2, Birnesi (7-4); 3, Soul Trader (12-1) 8 rss. 26, 12 (G Baiding) Tote: C2 00, C14 00, C12.0, C14.00, C15.0, C12.20, C12.20, Dual F: E16.20, C5F: C4.85.

3.00 (2m: 46 Cht; 1, Will Billisson, Mr. 17 rss. 15, deg (Miss J Prigeon) Tote: C1.70, C1.70,

10WGESTER

2.20 (2m HdBe): 1, ZARDRAH, Mr D Drinivaler (2-1), 2, Forning Two (8-1), 3, Rossio (33-1) 7-4 fav Bold Pursun: 10 ran. Sh hd. 21. (N Twattor-Davider; Tote 12-9), 61:40, 23:80, 55.50, Dual F: £24:60, Tric. £89.09. Co9f. £17:82.

2.60 (2m f 10 yels Chip 1, MY WIZARD, P Hdd (3-1); 2, Artis Wings (9-4 tay), 3, Another Venture (3-1) 5 ran. X 3. (J Gifford) Tote. £3:00, £1:50, £1:50. Dual F £1:50. Coff. £29:81. NR. Sezdino Aktor.

14.70, 12.50, £18.20, Dual F. £90.70, CSF: £2.56, 4.20 (2m 6f Ch): 1, CALL HONE, Mr T. Hills (11-4): 2, Teaplanter (2-7 fav): 3, Walens Star (16-1): 5 ran X, dist. [Miss 6 Edwards) Toto. £3.60, £5.10, €1.00, Dual F: £1.90 CSF: £4.00, 4.50 (2m 6f Miss): 1, IMJECTABLICK, A Thornton (3-1): 4, Imjectable (3-1): 3, Emple Sistens (6-1): 3-1 [miss to July murry Totil: 16 ran. 7, TK. (K. Bailey) Totil: £1.50, £3.10, £1.70, Dual F: £17.10 Tho £24.20, £5F: £25.80, NR: Ask Mc Kundiy, Ruffrade

R Stronge *
Lodder
...C Ree (7)
...A Thereton

A Fitzgerald (9-1); 2, Colorful Ambition (6-1); 3, Pfletth (8-1) 3-1 fav Chikkren's Choice 15 ran. 18, 25 (K Hogg) Tote: £13.00; £4.50, £1.90, £1.80, Dual F: £35.70, Frio. £146.70, CSF: £78.88, Tricast £571.75, NR ian's Bid. PLACEPOTI 255 00.

2323-PU WILTOSKI (112) (D) R Ledger 8-10-8 ...

P30-355 CAPTAIN COE (24) R Curtis 6-10-9

21/-0P30 SHAMAKEE (17) (CD) 8 (Jewellyn 9-10-12 .

8 Produce Margariths COVE (19) Grout 3-10-9
9 9-1006F SIR CRUSTY (17) C Jones 14-10-9
TOP FORM TIPE: Pyramic Prime 6, E Septime 7, Mariners Cove 6

Settings 11-4 If Sembleo, 4-1 Pyrame Prince, 11-2 Zip Your Lip. 7-1 Martners Cove. 10-1 Canton Coe. Macadonas, 14-1 Sharekee, Sir Crusty.

Hills (1-4): 2, Teaplanter (2-7 (av); 3, Walean Star (16-1), 5 ran. X, dist. [Miles S Edwards) Tote. E3.60, £5.10, £7.00. Dual F. 2.00. CSF £4.00. 4.60 (2m of Melle); 1, IMARCTARLICK, A Thornion (3-1 in-lav); 2, Footrot Remonder (3-1); 3-1 (2m); 4.50 (2



TOP FORM TIPS: Faustino S, Manuelete 7, Toen Jey S

Plumpton (N.H.)		
2.26 Ency Breazy 2.55 Mocann Fun 3.25 Neverold	, 4.00 Smert in Sable 4.30 Miss Form 5.00 Mariners Cove	
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3.25 MARCH SPLLING HAMDICAP HUMBLE 2- 1/ 52,027 3.25 MARCH SELLING HAMDICAP HUMBLE 2s. 17 EZ.
1 POI-0°C CLASSIC SHARE (6) H Marmer 6-12-0
2 COSSOS MENEROLD (34) (887) M Abero 6-12-0
3 542-50 FAME PARK (1923 L Wells 6-11-1
4 314-196 MDORS (26) S Emigri 5-11-0
5 50-6°CD TAKES A FLYER (17) H Hodges 6-10-13
6 65333 PRICOUS WORDER (15) P Butlet 7-10-10
7 04-697 PERMES SALL (24) H Roberts 6-10-13
8 POPP-0 WOODYARD (6) N Berry 7-10-9
4 475-00 LADY POLY (17) J PUROS 8-10-0
10 POMP-P FATISETS JOY (6) Mess C Caroe 6-10-0
10 COPP-60 ESS COMMAN (6) J Whyte 6-10-0
11 COPP-60 ESS COMMAN (6) J Whyte 6-10-0 rold 7, Precious Wender 6 Bettings 9-4 Proclaus Monder, 7-2 Neverbid, 5-1 Middom, 5-1 Classic Image, 5-1 Take A Flyer, 12-1 Fane Park, Ferresa Hall. 12 removers 4.00 WEATHERBY'S LEASING DIRECTORY HOVICE CHASH 2m \$2,000 PO WATHERSY'S LEASING DESIGNORY SUPERIOR CON26-0002 COME GATE (13) P Rinchess 8-11-2
prop MATTER BASISLER (64) G McCourt 6-11-2
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13007 STAR OF DAYING (13) Mass A Empirico 8-11-2
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Results

High Peak (12-1), 10-11 for Toute Begutie: 17 ran. 4. nls. (Mrs. J. Rether) Toute Edge 51-40. E426: E220. Data F. E32-0. Tro. (46.70. C55: E84 13. NR: Kreef. 2-40. (Den TF 11-0)pds Chip 1, TITAM ES-PRESS, C. Marcie (25-1), 2, Fancehoon Cole (5-2); 3, Smilling Chief (4-1 hay) 15 res. § 14. (8 Meldy) Tote: C32-80: E430. [2-30. C400 Data F. USS 10 CSF: E132-40 Trocas 15-20.72 3. 10 (20meld Melloy) 1, COOL CLOMMS, O

Coarting Deager, Lucky Archer

GOOSEY, L. Harvey (7-2): 2, Shamarphii (14-1), 3, Middap (11-2), 5-2 tav Lance Armstrong 7 ran. Nr. 11, (Mrs. McKle) Tote: £470, £2.50, £18.20, Dual F- £90.70, CSF:

RACELINE DONCASTER 101 201 W'CANTON PLUMPTON **GREYHOUNDS** 122 222 THE STATE STATE

(7) West C Townshop

(7) J Llowellyn (5) Mrs H Ledger (7)

FA CUP SOCCER

Sixth round replays: Liverpool 3, Leeds United 0

McManaman doubles clear of the deadlock

ian Ross

IVERPOOL moved for ward last night, with more discomfort than they may have anticipated, into the familiar territory of the FA Cup's last four. On Sunday week at Old Trafford they face Aston Villa for a place in the final.

Their chance of the domestic double may well have evaporated by then but no side with a potential matchwinner as proficient as Steve them out four days before the McManaman was last night is going to enter its bour of Villa. As expected, back came

Wimbledon 1, Chelsea 3

destiny burdened by fear. McAllister and Yeboah, but small acorns and their subse-lt was inconceivable that surprisingly there was also quent development was Leeds would again perform with the timidity and excessive caution which enveloped. then smothered the tie's first game 10 days earlier. A healthy respect for the opposition is fine; Leeds's then was dered rather than flowed. unhealthy.

Teams whose next stop is Wembley are liable to changes in personnel, but Leeds bucked the tendency to wrap the family jewels in cot-ton wool and instead took

room for Speed a month after his fractured cheekbone had necessitated the insertion of three metal plates. This was a

there was at least a hint of promise in the football of both teams. Even so, chances tended to be the by-product of mistakes rather than the endproduct of ingenuity.

the construction of precise attacks and, though these car-

clearly as popular in west Yorkshire as on Merseyside. Yeboah went closest to placing a cat among Scouse pi-geons when he fired a low drive fractionally wide after 15 minutes.

For the most part Liverpoo were way below their best in a fractured opening half but, enjoying an abundance of possession, they held an uneasy deadlock under constant

By disrupting their rhythm Leeds noticeably reduced Liv-

every time the ball lay at his

dled enthusiasm rather than McManaman's sorcery which was to present Liverpool with their finest first-half opening. His surging, cavalier run set up Fowler, who in his haste to reach the ball ahead of countless defenders scooped his shot wide in a manner that England would definitely not

Yet McManaman's progress had suggested that Leeds's ferocious blow with his left down the left wing was so effortlessly mesmerising that nothing grander than safe in short McManaman was nothing grander than safe passage through to a latenight penalty competition. They did not seem keen to hang about, though, pushing forward in a brazen manner that occasionally left them

vulnerable to swift counter-

attack.

When Leeds's resistance was finally ended after 57 minutes it was at the end at just such a raid. Although Palmer's outstretched foot ended Collymore's run down the flank, the ball fell into the

Fowler capped it all with a curling left-foot free-kick over the wall from 25 yards for his 31st goal of the season.

the difference, and with 18 minutes remaining he struck a second blow, sweep-ing in marvellously from 12 yards after being fed by Fowler.

that Gerry rebuilt

Career

lan Ross on how Mark Wright was inspired by a Mersey music idol

HERE are many differ ent aspects to Mark Wright's renaissance. For example, he is probably the only footballer in Britain who can cite a Sixties music idol as an inspiration. During the dark days of the

past two years, he attempted first to analyse and then to rectify a storyline that had

gone horribly wrong.
His family and team-mates provided reliable sounding boards but it was the advice and encouragement of a neighbour, Gerry Marsden of Pacemakers fame, which helped him stay affort.

"He was terrific, he in-spired me to come back." Wright said yesterday. "He kept on telling me that I was still a good player and that I should believe in myself. He pointed out I had two young boys who would be proud to see their father play for Liver pool. He gave me a hard time: he was like a father figure to

For one so amiable and articulate, Wright is no stranger to controversy. For both club and country he has prompted fierce, uncharacter-istic condemnation from the

the mild man with the track record of an enjunt terrible. He has made 43 senior ap-pearances for England — the last was against Spain 3': years ago — since his introduction against Wales back in

1984. Therein lies the tragedy Even those who found his youthful over-confidence offputting were willing to con-cede that he was arguably

larly at a club like Liverpool there is always going to be a chance. All I have done this season is work hard and concentrate on staying in the first team."

These days Wright's boyish smile illuminates Anfield. It was not always so In the summer of 1994 it seemed he was being unsubtly ushered towards the Anfield exit by the harsh words of Liver-

pool's manager Roy Evans. Having succeeded Graeme Souness, who had bought

Woods had a quiet night in the Wednesday goal. Sheridan was booked A low-key fixture against Bolton was designed to

> Wright, with another expensive Souness import, Ju-lian Dicks, was withdrawn

were publicly humiliated and neither seemed to have a future at Liverpool. A few months later Dicks returned to West Ham United: but

Slowly he won back his manager's respect, but a seri-

season impressively and is now a permanent fixture. "It's going well for me, but let's not get carried away," he

centre-back of his generation.
"I have had some bad injuries at bad times, and perhaps I have the sort of face which doesn't always fit." he said. "I broke a leg shortly before the 1986 World Cup finals and was discarded by England for two years after the 1988 Euro-pean Championship finals."

At the age of 32 Wright should be contemplating winning his 100th cap rather than the 44th. "No one ever gives up on England; or at least they shouldn't," he said this week as whispers of a recall first began to drift out of Lan-

Wright from Derby County three years earlier, Evans was preparing his squad for a pre-season tour of Germany and Norway.

sharpen minds and stretch sleepy muscles. But Liverpool were humiliated 4-1 and lier had glared at Newsome Evans decided that heads had

lian Dicks, was withdrawn from the tour party and told he must stay behind and train with Liverpool's youngsters.

Dicks was labelled overweight, Wright's "attitude" was called into question. Both

Wright remained.

ous Achilles injury restricted him to six senior appearances last season. Then with the arrival of Phil Babb and John Scales for a £7.1 million outlay the outlook seemed bleak. But Wright refused to concede defeat. He started this

the England squad again but that's all I am: in the squad."



Wright ...



HE prospect of meet-Villa Park produced another jolly knees-up of a match between the last two London sides left in the Cup in last night's replay at Selhurst in the eighth minute.

Yet the head of Harford, ristered redding in support of

Petrescu gave Chelsea 20th minute lead but Good-man equalised after Wise had d a penalty and Gullit had hit a post.

regained the lead 12 minutes from the end when Spencer came short for Wise's corner before crossing for Duberry to head past Sullivan. Five minutes later Hughes scored from close range after a won-derful run by Gullit down the

Wimbledon had had the better of the 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge but they had ultimately needed to come from behind to bring Chelsea here.

of the defence with his ability to bring the ball out and use it constructively. Gullit, moreover, had recovered from Sat-

bench, Chelsea's attack needed the Dutchman's strength in the air as well as

his other skills. ing Manchester Nevertheless it was a shot United in Sunday rather than a header from Nevertheless it was a shot week's semi-final at
Villa Park produced another
jolly knees-up of a match between the last two London

Villa Park produced another
jolly knees-up of a match between the last two London

which drew an arching,

> ing and nodding in support of Goodman and Ekoku, was always going to offer Wimble-don further hope. In fact Har-ford had created the game's first penetrating move, glanc-ing the ball down to Ekoku who set up Leonhardsen for a shot into Hitchcock's midriff. The little Norwegian did

better just before the quarter-

hour, meeting a short lay-off from Earle with a 30-yard shot that Hitchock turned around a post. In the next instant Jones, stooping low as he met Kimble's cross. skimmed the Chelsea bar with a bullet-like header. Thus did the tie resume the

Wimbledon could hardly have end-to-end tumble of events played any better than they did that afternoon and it was first encounter. If Chelsea's asking a lot to do it again.

Crucially, though, Chelsea now had Lee back in the heart

was the more measured approach, Wimbledon had the stronger mainspring for their counter-attacks.

Cheisea, however, had Petrescu and after 19 minutes the Romanian's astute timing of a run saw them take the From the outset Gullit's lead. Burley's pass found dreadlocks were evident in a Petrescu clear and onside and more advanced position than after taking the ball on he usual. With Furlong on the drove it into the roof of the



. Hughes heads wide as Chelsea out Wimbledon's goal under pressure at Selhurst Park last night

over the bar, Chelsea appeared to have the initiative. In the 23rd minute a place in

the semi-final virtually lay in their grasp.
Again the combination of

him and giving away a penalty. Wise is usually reliability itself with penalties but he missed as Sullivan easily saved his poorly-aimed kick.

from the post. Wimbledon,

peppering their opponents' penalty with ously studious influence in

Again the combination of Just past the half-hour Gul-Burley and Petrescu exposed lit made space for himself tence rewarded seven min-man and Ekoku — a header

the scores level with the finest of glancing headers. The second half opened with near-misses from Good-

rocked back on their heels

and soon found the dreadlocked Blinker hot to

handle. Yet, for all their

skill and enterprise, Wednesday failed to capi-

sea's three central defenders to meet the cross and bring

net from a narrow angle. The Wimbledon defence. This | near the 18-yard line and pro- | utes before half-time. Harford | saved and a shot driven just | With Sullivan pushing a | time | Kimble | stopped | duced a thunderous right | found Ekoku on the right and | wide — that suggested Wimclose-range shot from Hughes | Petrescu, but only by fouling | hook of a shot that rebounded | Goodman slipped past Chel- | bledon were not quite done

Premiership: Southampton 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1

More Georgian joy for City

that is proving so Cup final against Leeds United valuable in Manchester at Wembley on Sunday are City's battle against relega-tion was strengthened yesterday when the Department for Education and Employment granted a work permit to the striker Mikhail Kavelashvili. Georgi Kinkladze's interna-

tional team-mate, for whom City have agreed to pay the Russian champions Spartak Vladikavkaz £1.4 million, will make his debut against Bol-ton Wanderers, also strug-gling in the Premiership, at Burnden Park on Saturday Kavelashvili, who scored 26

goals in 13 games for Vladi-kavkaz last year and has played in all of Georgia's 14 internationals, was spotted by City when they signed Kink-ladge from Dynamo Thlisi last "We are delighted the work

permit has come through, said City's chairman Francis Lee. "He's a very good player. Very quick and a proven

HE Georgian influence | Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola looking increasingly slim. The striker has missed the

side's last nine games with a thigh injury and Villa's manager Brian Little said: "Tommy has been out a long time and to expect him to play on Sunday is perhaps too

Johnson may get a chance to prove his fitness in today's reserve game against Man-chester City, and Little said: We will know a bit more by Friday and we're hoping that a few of the injuries will clear up over the next 24 hours or so, but for Tommy to walk out at Wembley might be too much of a risk to take."

Swindon Town's Second
Division title hopes have been
dealt a major blow with the
news that their leading scorer Steve Finney will miss the rest of the season after breaking a leg during the 0-0 draw with Burnley on Saturday. Finney. Who was signed by Steve McMahon from Man-Tommy Johnson's chances chester City, has scored 16 of being fit in time to play for goals this season.

Croft is Blackburn target

BLACKBURN's manager | Todd yesterday lodged a launch his promised spending spree by signing Grimsby Town's highly promising full-back Gary Croft, writes Ian

Croft, 22, is widely acknowledged as one of the most accomplished defenders playing outside the Premiership and would command a fee of about £1 million.

Bolton attempted yesterday to secure a replacement for their goalkeeper Keith Brana-gan, who has been ruled out of the remainder of the Lancashire club's fight for Premiership survival after damaging knee ligaments in a training session on Tuesday. It may be up to three months before he can resume playing.

City's goalkeeper Gavin Ward, and although it was rejected Todd is likely to

make a higher bid. Sheffield United's manager Howard Kendall has gone back to Everton to recruit his new coach after Adrian Heath's recent departure to

Burnley. John Bailey, 38, who appeared in the Everton FA Cup-winning team of 1984, managed by Kendall, has been appointed by United initially until the end of the season, when his position will be

reviewed. Everton's striker Daniel Amokachi will captain Nigeria, for whom he has 36 caps, at this summer's Olympic Bolton's manager Colin Games in Atlanta.

Saints lose balance on a black Wednesday

OUTHAMPTON are Smore adept at avoid-ing the drop than a high-wire walker, but the safety net was whipped away last night and they are now in grave danger of relegation after 18 years in the top flight.

Degryse's first-minute goal inflicted their fourth successive league defeat, and the way they played will not fill them with hope

English snub

All-Star game

THE All-Star game went ahead in Leicester last night despite a boycott by

English players. Seven of the 24 selected refused to appear

in the showpiece game in

protest at the Budweiser

League's decision to remove the limit on the number of

foreigners allowed to each

The fledgling Basketball

Players Association was un-

able to agree to a total boy-

cott. but Peter Scantlebury Steve Bucknall, Ronnie

Baker, Karl Brown, Kevin St

Kitts, Dave Gardner and Tre

vor Gordon - seven of the

eight English players selected

held their own protest at what Scantlebury, the Eng-land forward and BPA presi-

dent, called "a detrimental

decision to English players

The league chairman Kevin

Routledge succeeded in avert-

ing a wider boycott in "a hec-

tic day" phoning the players. He recruited two English

replacements. Paul Howard of

Hemel Royals and Austin

Ojukwu of the Leopards.

and English basketball

Basketball

Robert Pryce

Five league wins all season says it all. Wednesday had arrived

in confident mood, unbeaten at The Dell in their ing a side frustrated by officialdom over the past few days. Defeat for Southampton in the FA Cup at Old Trafford had come after Shipperley had what looked a legitimate goal ruled out, and at Maine Road last Saturday a dis-puted offside decision had denied them an injury-time

Results

Belton (0) 2 Stubbs 74 Sellers 84 17,829

Southar 13,216

FA CUP Sixth-round replays

Liverpool (0) 3 L McManaman 57, 73 Fowler 83 (Liverpool play Aston Villa in s

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

One Premiership point Beasant from the edge of the moment it is missing against Manchester City the six-yard box. and with no one else would have been useful but
The home side were capable of providing it against Manchester City would have been useful but the fact that all three slipped away meant it was imperative that Saints learned how to win again last night, with matches to come against their fellow

strugglers Coventry and Queens Park Rangers.
In the event their start could not have been worse. drawn a breath before

Sheridan put Degryse away, for the Belgian to evade Dodd and beat

talise on their dream start, though Blinker, with a crisp header on 25 minutes, forced Beasant into a smart save at the foot of a post at the cost of a corner. If ever Southampton needed a touch of Le Tissier genius it was now, but at

Rugby League

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE First Division Port Vale (1) 1 Foyle 16

Tottenham (1) 3 lowells 17, Fox 54

SCOTTISK LEAGUE Third Division

Newman 85

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-final, second legs Spartix Moscow 2, Nantes 2 (agg. 2-4).

BEAZER HOSESS LEAGUE Preview Divisions VS Rugby 0, Saisbury 1.

POINTIRS LEAGUE: First Divisions Notes Co. 0, Blackburn 0; Sheff Uld 1, Wolverhampton 0, Second Divisions Bradford 1.

Rotherham 2: Burnley 0, Lencaster 4; York 0, Sunderland 2: Third Divisions Bury 0, Chesterield 0; Garilale 2, Strewbury 1, Doncaster 5, Flochdale 3; Lincoln 2, Wigan 2; Scarborough 2, Stochoort 3; Welsell 2, Durington 0; Wresham 2, Scuribrope 2, AVON 1865URANCE COMEMINATION-First Divisions Bury 3; Crystal Palace 4, Swindon 1; Ipswich 4, Southampton 0; Luon 3, Orderd Und 2; Norwich 0, Wimbledon 4, Second Divisions Birmingham 1, Ball 2; Bournemouth 1, Cardill 1

LEAGUE OF WALES: Combran 1, Ebbw

Cardin 1 LEAGUE OF WALES: Combran 1, Ebbw Vale 3, Ton Pentre 0, Liancjii 0

LEAGUE Barnet 1, Fulham 3: Brentlord 2, Reading 1: Cambridge Utd 3. Welling 1: Crawley Tn 1, Peterborough 3. TRANSES.

Rugby Union SUPER-12 (Pretoria): Northern Transi 59, Otago 29. 59, Omgo 29. REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Surrey 53. Kent 17. Cancelled: Royal Navy v

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE First Divisions Easimoor 23. Thornhill 15 Tennis

ECRITIS
ST PETERESURG OPENI: First round: J
Coleman (Fr) bi J Van Herok (Bel) 4-6,
6-3, 6-4; K Carrisen (Den) bi A Stivec (Belarie) 7-6, 7-5; D Vanoek (Cr) bi A Chesnokov (Rus) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4: D Norman (Bel) bi
A Chericasov (Rus) 6-1, 6-4. Second
round: D Primosil (Ger) bi J Apell (Swe)
5-4, 6-4; F Dewntif (Bel) bi N Marques
(Por) 8-4, 6-3.
DAVIS CLIP (Dubal): Asla/Conante zone:
Group A Malaysia 2, Kazenhistan 1; Fachin Oceans 2, Ornan 1; Singapore 2,
Syria 1. Groups B: Kuwali 3, Bangladesh 0;
Jordan 3, Brunel 0; Kuwali 3, Brunel 0;
Bangladesh 3, UAE 0; Ostar 3, Jordan 0.

NESA: Charlotte 102, Indiana 94; New Jersey 22, Vancouver 77; Orlando 113, Detroit 91; Houston 102, Golden State 105 (ot); Chicago 89, Sacramento 67; Dallas 72, Cleveland 61; Portland 106, Minnesota 71, LA Labers 94, Seattle 71. Bowis

Basketball

ice Hockey

New Zaniamd bt HK 21–14; Majaysia drew with US 19–19; Ireland bt Cook Jahanda 53–12. Hong Kong M Majaysia 20–18; Mew Zeeland bt US 25–16; New Zeeland bt Cook Islands 32–3, Hong Kong bt Kong Soccer

30-10
WOMEN'S INDOOR MOME INTERNA-TIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Llaneth)
Section of 126, Wales 117 (Scots first): FSection for to 8 Mergen 20-12, 1 Conton lott to B Rowlands 28-23, 2 Sykes by
Gitting 28-13: E Wines by A Jones 28-13:
E McGarvie lott to A Datation 23-14, 3
Indicate the S. Signam 20 12-14, 3 Underes lest to S Offwer 22-15; England 160, traised 83 (Eng Inrst) M Steele les to M Johnston 21-18, D Hankin bt M Mallon 18-12; J Roylance bt B Cameror

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Adelaide):
Pains Section As Sociated by Argentina
18-17; Nerfolk Island of Syries 20-15, Mariena
18-17; Nerfolk Island of Syries 20-15, Mariena
by Wostern Samoa 22-10; Namibia
of Krael 27-16; Namibia by Malawi 33-16; Sociation 18 Sociation 19 North Karlos 17-17, Argentina
of Krael 27-16; Namibia by Malawi 33-16; Sociation 19 North Karlos 19 North Malawi 33-17; Namibia by Western Samoa 36-5; North Malawi 36-17, Namibia by Western Samoa 31-22
Section 8: Cook Islands by Kenya 17-15;

Section 8: Cook Islands by Kenya 17-15;

MHL: Detroit 6, Toromo 5; Florida 5 Ottawa 2; NY Rangers 1, Edmonton 4, Philadelphia 4, NY Islanders 1, Washington 1

after 63 minutes for an in-

nocuous challenge on Le

Tissier, who moments ear-

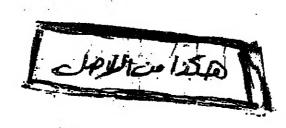
for no apparent reason.

Fixtures

PONTINE LEAGUE: Flost Stoke v Leads (7.0): West Brons v Notton Forest (7.0) Seconds Auton Villa v Man C (7.0) AVON INSURANCE CONEINATION: Seconds Torquey v Chelmann (7.45). LEAGUE OF INFLANCE Prantice Disciplone Dundalk v Sharerock Rvvs (7.45). Hockey

INTER SERVICES CHAMPIONEN

O Britain's leading swommers converge on Sheffield today for the Clympic trials. Innowing that one installer could wreck their Allanta ambitions. Following the experiment introduced at last year's selectors have again opted for a "sudden death" system, with none of the top Clympic medal hopes pre-selected. Even compositors like hack Gillingham and Mark Foster know they must win at the wisle, and achieve a qualifying time land down by the selectors in order to guarantee selectors.



Rugby Union

Clubs and country head for conflict

Robert Armstrong

NGLAND's leading clubs are set for a rug of war with the Rugby Football Union for the es of their top players in the build-up to next season's international matches. Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executive, will meet club representatives from Courage Leagues One and Two at London's East India Club today to try to resolve the deadlock over player availability and the schedul-

ing of league and cup fixtures. In an attempt to ease fixture congestion and lessen the burden on international players, the RFU has pro-posed August 31 as the start-ing date for National League matches and has suggested staging next season's Pilkington Cup final on May 10, a week later than usual Euro-pean Cup fixtures, which in-volve English clubs for the first time, would be played on six successive Saturdays from October 12 onwards, with the

October 12 onwards, with the final on January 4.
However, a club-versus-country conflict over the availability of players in the weekend before each international looks set to undermine the fragile relationship be-tween English First Division

Clubs Limited and the RFU. Significantly, a players' draft contract currently circulating among the clubs seeks to deny the RFU the automatic right to first call on players for internationals, even though that right was affirmed last year in a directive from the International Board.

The issue of player avail-ability could become acute during the 1997 Five Nations Championship when the England management will hold its customary two-day training sessions in the weekend players who have earned

Rugby League

Paul Fitzpatrick

League, March 29.

UST when the smoke of battle appeared to be clearing in Australia.

Global League would be run said Lindsay. But it sounds by and for the benefit of the like Super League by another

along comes Global League, a

10-team competition an-

day as the European Super

311 "rebel" players who

signed contracts with Rupert Murdoch's Australasian Super

League and who now refuse to play under the Australian

Rugby League banner.
One of Justice James Bur-

chett's rulings, when the ARL

won its emphatic court vic-tory over Super League, was

that eight Super League clubs

must return to the ARL fold.

But no such order was made

On Monday it appeared the players might be willing to rejoin the ARL competition,

however reluctantly, but the

conciliatory mood changed when almost half their 15

"peace" proposals were rejected. Out of that disen-chantment has emerged

Global League, the details of

which were outlined in

Sydney yesterday by Maurice Lindsay, the English Rugby

sist of 10 teams; the two new

League's chief executive.

SALE signed a second for-mer Wales player who "went North" last night when Adrian Hadley, the recently released Widnes RL winger, switched codes again on a three-year contract. writes

Fitzpatrick. Like his Widnes teammate and fellow Wales RU cap John Devereux, who is to combine Super League duties this summer with winter rugby union, Hadley will not be seen in Courage league action with Sale until next season.

The 33-year-old Hadley left Cardiff to go profes-sional with Salford in 1988 after scoring 12 tries in 27 appearances on the wing for Wales.

before each game. At present Pilkington Cup matches are planned for the weekends beore England face Scotland on February 1 and France on March 1, and there are League One matches before the away games against Ire-land on February 15 and Wales on March 15.

The question of who holds each player's contract will be crucial. This season the top players have been contracted will change this summer when those players have to agree terms of employment agree terms of employ with their chosen clubs.

It is likely that members of the England squad will at-tempt to negotiate dual con-tracts with club and union in order to retain their freedom

Lindsay leads ARL rebels

competition, followed by a play-off by the top five clubs, which in turn would be fol-

lowed by a world play-off involving European clubs.

Global League would have no connection with Mur-

doch's News Corporation,

name, and under the terms of

Justice Burchett's rulings it may be illegal. "It won't get off the ground," the ARL's

executive chairman Ken

Arthurson said bluntly.
Nevertheless a representative of the players, Nick Carson, said he saw no legal
reason why the players could

not stage this competition nor

any reason why Lindsay should not act as an adviser.

Lindsay, who is reported to

into non-Super League

Another Widnes about £36,000 each from international rugby this season may decide simply to draw a weekly salary from their clubs without committing their signatures to any contract other than with the RFU.

There could be a clash of interest between the European Cup, which stages its last round of games on No-vember 16, and England's first international of the season, against Italy at Twicken

No English club involved in the latter stages of the compe-tition would be willing to release international players merely for a squad weekend. On the other hand, no England coach would want to be without key players when preparing his squad for a tough curtain-raiser. Clearly

something has to give.

Among other issues certain to keep the pot boiling are the top clubs' insistence on a new contract with BSkyB to transmit European Cup games even though the RFU already has a contract with ITV, and the proposal from the new Rugby Union Players' Association that its members be paid a basic salary of £18,000. tier European competition. The top clubs have to devise

ways of raising £1.5 million each next season just to pay their playing staff a minimum salary and meet running costs. Yesterday Dick Best, Harle quins' director of rugby, warned that the demand for £18,000 would inevitably lead to fewer contracts. He pointed out that each club will need a first-team squad of about 30 players, without having the income to pay them all a five-

from television and sponsor-

ship will support the competi-tion. "The RFL in England are not actively investing in

the competition although

they are, of course, allowing me to put the Global League

tournament was forbidden to

He danied that the competi-tion had been arranged before

clubs. Afterwards the rival

Already two classes of rugby player, well-heeled pro-fessionals and uncontracted "amateurs"

plus eight from the areas of the Nuper League clubs.

There would be 18 rounds of dent that income generated



Why Faldo stays on for structure together." he said. The ARL is seeking court orders to prevent the competition starting, and Lindsay said that players and coaches would abide by the law if the townsment was forbidden to headbanging with Ledd

David Davies reports from Orlando, Florida, where golf's most an action with so many moving parts and performed by a celebrated swing guru is on emergency extra duties this week a human being. Deep down, for the is sufficiently clever to

table and where the advice he prizes more than any in the

world is available instantly.

the breakdown of compro-mise talks between the Super League players and the ARL. "This alternative competition ICK FALDO stood on I cart ride from the breakfast I free his mind from the memthe 18th tee in last Wednesday's Bay Hill was not the preferred option pro-am, finishing off but it will now be a genuine a not particularly distinrughy league premiership," guished round. Two video cameras were trained on him, Although Global League can only complicate matters, one from behind, the other from the side. He hit his tee shot, watched it finish, and then as his amateur partners there were still some hopeful signs yesterday including a long round of talks which inwent through their contorvolved all 20 established tions he watched the instant playback of his swing. Then to agreement than for a long viewed and analysed in its

If agreement is reached it will almost certainly come too This was Orlando, home last week to the Bay Hill Invitational but home ever to the David Leadbetter School of Swing Dissection. fielding weak sides when the new ARL season, three weeks behind schedule, finally gets Redistribution and Resurrection. Its leading pupil is of course Faldo, and for him the week of the Bay Hill event represents seventh heaven.

Leadbetter has his school at Lake Nona, where Faldo has his American base. It is only 20 minutes from the Bay Hill club, which means Faldo can be at home and on the range all week. This year he is also taking this coming weakend taking this coming weekend off, so while the US Tour moves on to New Orleans for the Freeport Classic he is

staying behind.

For this is where the mechanical man of golf comes in for maintenance or, if necessary, overhaul. This is where Faldo, perhaps more than any man in the history of the the analysis goes on. Asked at Bay Hill if he had rid himself of the cause of those pulled shots he replied: game, loves studying, and tinkering with his own swing It is almost unhealthily obsessive, a

search for a level of perfection that cannot exist in an action with so many moving parts and performed by a human being

Englishman what he has been doing during a week off and something other than working on his swing, or, as he puts it, "fine tuning with Ledd". For Ledd was the man he

turned to for a complete restructuring of his game in restructuring or his game in 1985, after two years in which he had won six tournaments He has since won five majors
— although, worryingly for

him, not one since 1992. Faldo is simply never satisfied. Two weeks ago he started the Honda Classic with a 77 and finished with three successive rounds of 68. Had he started with a levelperfect practising conditions form, have tied the winner, sessive, a search for a level of are no more than a short golf. Tim Herron. Yet he cannot perfection that cannot exist in on.

and the tutor by his side is the | "Not officially." That meant a man he calls "Ledd". Ask the | cure had been effected but it was something he had worked out for himself and it had not yet received the offi-cial benediction of Ledd.

After studying his tee shot

ory of six missed greens in the first round, all through

pulled second shots. And so

which had to be hit very pre-cisely to avoid the lake, front the ball seemingly perfectly, to 12 feet, then watched the replay, and there followed half a dozen practice swings with examinations of his position at various stages. It was as if hitting a four-iron to 12 feet, into a breeze, over a lake, was really rather ordinary. It is almost unhealthily ob-

at the pro-am 18th last Wednesday, the cameras fol-lowed him to his second shot

realise it. Faldo must know this. But he has, for periods, experienced perfection, times when he felt the ball was on a string and could be directed wheresoever he chose. There were times in 1990 he knew, absolutely, before going to the course, that he

was going to play well even by his high standards, and logic tells him that if that can be achieved once it can be

He is relentless in his search, ruthless even; it is a side to his nature he evidently has difficulty controlling. But even in that he gets help from Ledd.

For most of the past 15 years Faldo's obsession has meant that he has been surrounded by golf. Everything he does, right down to the things he eats and drinks and the time he goes to bed, is dic-tated by golf. The solitary window in that bleak outlook has been his two wives. Melanie and Gill, neither of whom has been a golfer.

Now it seems that by taking up with Brenna Cepelak, a single-figure player who was on the Arizona university golf team, he has slammed shut even that window. There is no one close to him who cannot talk, or indeed would not prefer to talk, about pronation supination, rotation; about And so the obsession goes

Feherty happy to return to the fray after three-month retirement

Michael Britten in Lisbon

THREE months after his I retirement to become a commentator for American television, David Feherty relaunches his European career in the Portuguese

Open here today. Feherty, aged 37, is back after a disastrous attempt to establish himself on the US Tour which ended with him losing his card and em-

cured while winning five European titles and more than £1.5 million in a 15-year campaign.
His new zest for the game

stems from the encouragement of the Ryder Cup cap-tain Seve Ballesteros, of his close friend Sam Torrance, and of a Mississippi sales executive, Anita Schneider, whom he plans to marry this year after her Leap Year proposal.

Ballesteros told Feherty when they played in Dubai

decision to retire was largely engendered by his marital problems. "I felt suicidal about them sometimes, but then I often feel like that about my put-ting," he remarked. "I had got to a crossroads in my life, but it was more like

out to think about golf." Africa recently, intends to enthusiastic transatiantic last week, that he wanted play 20 tournaments in some way below their best.

spagnetti junction. I just had too many things to sort

commuter, aiming to regain | him back in the European | Europe this year but says the Ryder Cup place he se | team at Valderrama in 1997. | he might try again to play eam at Valderrama in 1997. he might try again to play The Irishman admits his in the US, where he will be commentating on the US Tour event at Atlanta immediately before the US Masters, "I feel I have something to prove to them," he said. Meanwhile, the Arceira

course 10 miles south of the Portuguese capital should not be too demanding. Only 6,600 yards, it meanders through a pine forest. Over Feberty, who had two 40in of rain in two months top-four finishes in South have left it soft and invit-40in of rain in two months ing, although the greens are TV and Sport

Duo with walletful of clout

John Duncan on the Sports Council's leading players

ODNEY WALKER and Derek Casey may not be as graceful as Torvill and Dean, as terrifying as Lillee and Thomson, or as idiosyncratic as Clough and Taylor, but few duos in Brit-

ish sport have their power.

In the past two years the pair, respectively chairman and chief executive of the Sports Council, have seen the National Lottery increase their grant-aid bud-get from £49 million to £300 million, money they have distributed for the future benefit of elite and grass-

roots sport. That sum is set to grow even more in the next six months, with a proposed five per cent of all future sports-rights money "top-sliced" and directed to fertilising grassroots sport, now that the House of Lords has accepted the council's proposed code of conduct for governing bodies and broadcasters after the debate on the Broadcasting Bill.

In the past 12 months the council has been handed the purse strings for the new £200 million national stadium, has been given responsibility for the Government's pet project, the £100 million elite Academy of Sport, and has organised a massive national jumior

sports programme.

It all seems a long time ago that the council was something of a joke, a black hole of bureaucracy into which good ideas went and were never seen again, an unavoidable nuisance to governments who cared lit-

tile about sport.
"The day I arrived in my
office," said Walker, "the
only thing on my desk was
a highly critical report from the Public Accounts Committee into the working of some of our subsid-

iary companies."

The council has had to knock itself into shape quickly. "The speed of change in sport in the past 12 months has been quite extraordinary," said Casey. The lottery, the question of amateurism, and the role into play. We have had to adapt and become much more knowledgeable about areas we weren't really insame time set an agenda and take the lead on things.

"I think in 40 years' time people will say it must have been extraordinary to be around in the mid-90s, when sport got a political profile. a national academy."

Walker's background as a no-nonsense northern busi-nessman — his handshake borders on an act of aggression - and company troubleshooter for merchant banks has beloed.

"By good fortune I arrived at the Sports Council just at the point when the Governand the National Lottery was about to be launched," he said. "But if the council does find itself 18 months on having more respect than it used to have, then we have earned it.'

True enough. A flexible approach to lottery grants promptly headed off early criticism over lack of money for inner cities, over the need for matching funds and over the probcould be used for. Now the Government uses the council for advice, and parliament listens to it says.

The council has even learned to play hardball telling one northern local authority that if it sold two playing fields it would not get another penny of lot-tery money. And in the time it takes to say "Let's form a sub-committee" the fields were off the market. Definitely a new era.

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Sport in brief

Weightlifting

The British lifter Peter May has been banned for life after testing positive for an anabolic steroid. He was one of several lifters who were positive at last November's world championships in China, where he finished 15th in the 2001b class. Last night the International

Weightlifting Federation would confirm only the sus-pensions of May and Ger-many's Stephanie Utsch because it was still waiting for results of the B-sample analysis in the other cases. Wally Holland, general secretary of the British federation, said May's case would be discussed at a meeting on Satur-

England's Tony Allcock and Andy Thompson stayed on course for a semi-final place after the third day of the world championships in Adelaide when they coasted to a 29-9 win over Guernsey's Jon Queripel and Bernie Simon. They then survived a comewinning 28-21.

Badminton

Mariners and Adelaide Rams, Lindsay . . . Sydney role

The first foreigner employed on a full-time basis in the 103year history of the Badminton Association of England was announced yesterday, writes Richard Jago. Asger Madsen, a Dane based in Gothenburg,

will take over as England Tal

ent Coach on July 1.

Squash

An experimental scoring sys tem will be used at the eight-man Equitable Life Super Series tournament beginning today in Hatfield, Hertford shire, writes Richard Jago The system has one point per rally up to nine, with a tiebreaker at 8-8. England's Mark Chaloner will take on Pakistan's World Open champion Jansher Khan today.

Table Tennis

England may be without their two leading players for a crucial European Men's League Super Division relegation play-off with Poland at Eletchley tonight. Matthew Syed, the England No. 1. faces a fitness test on a hamstring problem and Chen Xinhua is in China on business cob Vanderventer and Arthur is in China on business Kayesa before comfortably and may not reach the venue in time.

Cricket

under way tomorrow.

Ruling blow for Emburey

OHN EMBUREY, who Precently joined Northamp-tonshire as coach, was given new county yesterday but with a qualification rule that could still force him to retire from the first-class game.

The 43-year-old off-spinner, who left Middlesex during the winter after 22 seasons, has been told by the Test and County Cricket Board that he can play on only as a List One Emburey, who won his 64th

Test cap last summer, has been confirmed as List One because he was offered a two-year contract by Middlesex. Coach and county must now decide whether his on-field qualities, and his age, justify them using up one of only two List One registrations allowed in

any five-year period. Amjad Mohammad, a 24-year-old left-arm wrist spinner who spent two years training as a Hafiz — the Muslim equivalent of a priest — nas given up that career and signed a one-year contract with Worcestershire.

The structure in an acrimonious divorce. His home is still in Dallas but he is now an enthusiastic transcription. Contract chaos for rugby union, page 15

SportsGuardian

FRENCHMAN'S BRILLIANCE BREAKS GUNNERS' RESISTANCE



Firing on all cylinders . . . Manchester United's midfielder Roy Keane lets fly and Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp can only hold a watching brief

Premiership: Manchester United 1, Arsenal 0

Cantona puts United level at top

Cynthia Bateman

played brilliantly for it, and never looked like failing to win. But one goal was enough only level on points with Newcastle, when a second goal and a clean sheet would have allowed them to reclaim the Premiership top place. There are those who thought Cantona's winning second-half

goal was well worth two. The difference was apparent from the start. United, uneaten at home for 13 months. were the express train: Arsenal the buffers. Alex Ferguson said beforehand that 20 from a possible 34 points would win the championship.

for seven years. The Neville brothers, named together in the England squad, seemed to be running on high-octane fuel. Phil at left-back raced down the line at a pace which made even Giggs look as though he was going backwards. The Arsenal defence defi-

nitely were — and for most of the time. Attack followed attack as United sought a goal from the opening seconds. What was so amazing was the variety with which they were launched.

In the opening seconds even

but despite United's obvious appetite, by half-time the myrisd chances had got them absolutely nowhere.

It was compelling viewing nevertheless for the crowd of 50,028, Old Trafford's biggest to the control of the control of the control of the control of the far post, the ball bounce of the far post, the far post is the far post of the far post of the far post, the far post of the far post, the far post of ence by May, allowing Gary Neville to play at right-back in place of the injured Irwin. The former Blackburn player had a torrid time as Bergkamp, Wright and Hartson of casionally tried to sneak past a United back line spread wafer-thin as the full-backs

pushed forward. By comparison Arsenal's midfield seemed to be swal-lowed into the defence, as it tried to keep its head above water. Some clever touches from Giggs and Cantona, combined with Keane's surging power, contrived to give

of the far post, the ball bounc-ing out to Cole, whose effort was blocked by the horizontal

Platt's poor back-pass let in Cole, who was instantly swarmed around by Arsenal shirts and eventually denied by Seaman. Crosses streamed n, shots and headers whis-

Arsenal, who had arrived undefeated in six games, stuck with the formation that earned them their win at Wimbledon, but supply to the two strikers, Wright and Hartson, was limited. Berghard have been caught by Seaman

Seaman's legs.

bounced for Hartson, who to give United the lead in the ashed in a shot but struck

Schmeichel's legs. Just before the hour Ferguson sent on Scholes to try break the deadlock as United continued to drive into a acked Arsenal defence Cantona, who was in scin-

tillating form. produced a lob from 30 yards out for Scholes to scurry on to, but Arsenal snuffed out the danger.
But seconds later Cantons

Set by Rufus

65th minute.

castle. They simply pressed on and Scholes came within a whisker from Sharpe's square Arsenat: Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Linghan, Marshall Winlerburn, Platt, Merson, Bergkamp, Hartson, Wright.

The crowd wanted a penal-

ty when Butt was brought down, but United had no time

to stop in the search for the

second goal that would have taken them back above New-

Lords giveth so V-chip can take away



Vincent Hanna

word with Tim Col-lings, who could do a lot for British sport not to mention British sanity. He is a professor of engineering in Vancouver, and we need his help. I'll get to him in

The Broadcasting Bill com-pleted its passage through the House of Lords. It now goes to the Commons where, unless the Sports Council gets tough, there will be another big row. The idea, you will recall, is to ensure that the British public has access to great sporting occasions. Which can be a

mixed blessing. Viewers might prefer to be spared the sight of another match involving a British football club and the word Uefa. One of Tim Col lings's devices might help. I'll

explain later.
The current debate is about the "unbundling" of broad-casting rights, whereby "live" TV coverage is disposed of separately from "secondary" rights (recorded highlights, and radio). Denis Howell, Bernard Don-

aghue and George Thomson (who earlier defeated the Government over the eight "listed events) pushed for computsory unbundling. But they backed down at the last min-ute, because the Government

offered a voluntary code of conduct for sports bodies and broadcasters. And asked the Sports Council to draw one up Howell told me he was hope ful, but asked: "Can we trust the buggers?" I'd like to know that, too. There are a lot of

■ HAVE a copy of the first draft. It has only 10 para graphs but it could transform the present system, if the Sports Council is prepared to fight for it. It sets out three

principles by which the code should operate. It applies only to non-listed events. Live coverage or high-lights must be available to both terrestrial and satellite channels. Sports bodies can

sell all rights to sporting events as a complete package or separately.
The really interesting twist

mes in Par 8: a proportion of the total fees from broadcasting rights sales will be nominated by the governing body

as a minimum contribution for the development of its

This should provoke some interesting chat with the Pre-mier League, the Test and County Cricket Board and the Rugby Football League, none of which could be called transparent about where its TV money trickles to. Especially when they hear that the Sports Council chaurman Rodney Walker wants to set the

figure at about five per cent. The code would be monitored by a panel chaired by the Sports Council But has Walker the resolve to fight for an agreement?

He will never get a better chance to put the screws on. Sports bodies and broadcasters know that if they don't have a working code before the Committee Stage in the House of Commons in six weeks, they will have statutory rules imposed or see the listed events added to. An unfavourable report from Walker at that stage and the Government will be defeated.

He told me yesterday: "We mean it. We intend to ensure that sport behaves responsibly. No one should be in any doubt that if they fail to seize the opportunity they will risk the imposition of more restrictive controls.

"HIS is encouraging, and I hope it works. But I must confess that it is only half my problem. Having TV access to major British sporting events is all very well but it does not make them more bearable to watch. Having endured Bayern Mu-nich v Nottingham Forest, it is sometimes better not to know the truth. And do you remember those pictures of a tense, fearful Frank Bruno walking to the ring in Las Vegas, constantly crossing himself?

I am sorry I watched because it struck me that maybe Frank wasn't in on the joke. What if the poor man actually believed he had a chance? I tried to turn off my set. I have a remote control but no self-

That is where Tim Colling comes in. He invented the "V chip", which from next year will be part of every television set sold in North America. special signal with a built-in censorship scale, and viewers can programme their set to avoid horrific scenes.

An adolescent hand reaches

for a bra-strap, or a chain-saw and the picture is zapped.

Just think. With careful planning we would never have to see again: an England middle-order collapse; the start of a grand prix - or the finish; cycle races; show jumping; Will Carling.

Venables calls Wright

David Lacey

HREE and a half years after playing his last England game under Graham Taylor, Mark Wright looks set to make his first appearance for Terry Venables. The 32-year-old Liverpool defender is likely to win his 44th cap in Wednesday's friendly at Wembley against Bulgaria, World Cup semifinalists in 1994, because Ven-ables has lost both of his regular centre-backs Tony Adams and Gary Pallister to injuries. Newcastle's Steve Howey is Wright's most likely partner. Wright's recall to the Liver-

pool side has coincided with a resurgence of form by Roy Evans's team. "Mark has a lot of experience," said Venables when he announced his squad yesterday. "He is a confident player, a good defender and good user of the ball. He's not been with me before but he has done it at the top level." Done it certainly, but a long time ago. Wright's best spell for England came in the 1990 World Cup after Bobby Robson surprised everyone by opting for a sweeper system is nowhere near his best against Holland. The centre Shearer continues to score Wright inspiration, page 14

this possible, but he did have Des Walker's pace and Terry Butcher's superior defensive qualities alongside him. Once Taylor had succeeded

Robson, Wright's England career levelled out and then went into decline. He annoyed Taylor by making a late withdrawal from the 1992 European Championship with an injury when it was too late to bring in Adams as a replacement. A poor performance at the start of the following season, when England lost 1-0 to Spain in Santander and Toplan in Santander and Toplan in Santander tander, and Taylor never picked him again.

Wright's presence is a fur-ther reminder of the difficulty Venables faces, with the European Championship less than 12 weeks away, in injecting new blood of genuine international quality into his team. A larger-than-usual squad of 26 manages to make the talent look even more thinly spread.

Imponderables abound. Ince. because of his fall-out with Venables, has not played for England for 13 months. Platt

Caroline Sullivan on the comeback trail

back's comfort in bringing goals by the bundle for Black-the ball out of defence made burn but has not found the Fowler is almost equally prolific but is an unknown quantity internationally. The Nev-illes are nouveaux, and whenever Gascoigne plays one can never be sure whether

he is going to be chaired off, sent off or carried off. There would appear to be little point in having Ince around again unless he is going to play. McManaman too, although he would be wasted by again being restricted to the flanks.

Thomas is keeping Redk-

napp out of Liverpool's mid-field and Stone will do as much at Wembley if Venables feels he needs the consistent width the Forest man can

GIVE.

ENGLAND: Seeman (Arsenal), Welter (Tottmiham), Plowers (Blackburn); Joses (Lreipool), Howey (Newcarite), Petroe (Nottingham Forest), Plewille (Man Ind), Wright (Liverpool), Southgate (Aston Vills), Enlege (Aston Vills), G. Herdie (Man Ind), Stone (Nottingham Forest), Shecker (OPR), Reditages (Liverpool), Shecker (OPR), Reditages (Liverpool), Seeman (Internationale), Wise (Chebsat, Beerdiely (Newcastie), Fowter (Liverpool), Steeman (Beckburn), Ferdinand (Newcastie), Shertoglasm (Tottonham), Lee (Newcastie), Molleseman (Liverpool), Steeman (Liv

It's depressing that the fans have such a Pavlovian response to

for a ticket, or £25 for the sub-standard Beatles Anthology 1.

comebacks. While it's natural to want to see a favourite long-lost group

again, one must question the sanity of people who would fork out £100

BROTHERS IN ARMS



cluded with his brother Gary in Terry Venables's squad for the Bulgaria game next week, set up the possi-bility of brothers playing in the same England team for the first time since June 11 1970, when Bobby and Jack Charlton were in the side that beat Czechoslovakia 1-0 in Mexico to secure a World Cup quarter-final place. It was Jack's last of 35 caps; Bobby won one more, his 106th. They played 28 times table below lists all brothers to have played for England.

PHILIP NEVILLE (left), in

BAMBRIDGE CLEGG RAWSON

Ernest (1, 1876), Charite (18, 1879-87) and Arthur (3, 1881-84) Charles (1, 1872), William (2, 1873-79) Herbert (1, 1875). William (2, 1875-77) Hubert (5, 1873-78). Frank (1, 1876) Alfred (1, 1877), Edward (1, 1878) Arthur (6, 1876-83), Harry (8, 1880-84) Frad (3, 1880-82), Jack (2, 1881) Arthur M (9, 1885-90), Percy M (13, 1885-90) Alf (4. 1882-84), Charlie (1, 18 Alf (6, 1889-92), Charlie (1, 1888) Robert (2, 1893-94, Arthur (1, 1894) Charlie (3, 1890-93), Tom (1, 1898) Frank (9, 1895-1903), Fred (3, 1899) Charles P (2, 1864), Geolinay P (2, 1900) Bertle (1, 1901), Rex (1, 1903)

(figures in parentheses represent caps, years)

CURSHAM HARGREAVES SHELTON TOPHAM PERRY WILSON

STEPHENSON

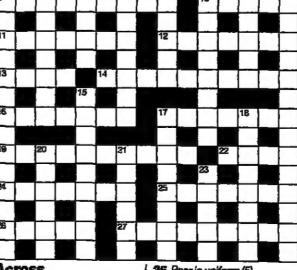
Frank (4, 1922-26), Reg (1, 1927) Clem (1, 1924), George (3, 1928-31) Jack (3, 1931), Sep (1, 1935)

9 Not straight and with future 10 Pack animal brings

11 Oriental seen in Chinese city, having a sty look (7) 12 Dot three i's perhaps, many

13 Cattle without water (4) 14 Capital footwear (10)

both sides of the river (7) 25 She puts on other people's clothes (7)



Guardian Crossword No 20.606

Across

everything back around 2 See great changes in over-

find it silly (7)

16 Play an exaggerated role in a covert organisation (7) 17 One is not bound to enjoy this (7)

19 Their union offers security (4.3.3)22 Rigid forms of worship (4) 24 Lower speeds ordered on

17 The author is not in (8)

26 Peer in uniform (5)

27 They add grace to

Down 1 Mate takes steps to provide decks (9,6)

88as accommodation (8) 3 Join in a fortissimo number 4 Breaking foot, totters a bit (8)

5 It's erected for the reception (6) 6 Matches in leagues (9) 7 Agood man in the mine.

though too old for the job

nowadays (4,2) 8 Coach for trippers? (7,8) 15 An arm put round a pretty girl in game (9)

18 Straightening bandages (8) 20 Company show

accept responsibility (3-3) 21 Order posted by a tyrant (6) 23 Waves on the pools (5)

Solution tomorrow

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